
July 1995

CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 96

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 7th (LATE NEWS AUGUST 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - The UK DX Foundation - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: *"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"*

From the Prospectus: *"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"*

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

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EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Hello to all, and especially to our new members. I suppose that one of the big news items, at least on the UK DX scene, in the last two months was the resignation of Bren, G4DYO, as editor of the RSGB's weekly DX News Sheet (DXNS). Bren was editor for over ten years - just think of that commitment - a weekly deadline, week in, week out, fifty weeks a year, for over ten years. During his time as editor, Bren made DXNS one of the most respected weekly DX bulletins there is. A commitment of that nature cannot be undertaken without the help and support of one's family, and I know that Bren had a great deal of both from his XYL, Ruth. I would like to place on record my thanks and appreciation to Bren and Ruth of a job well done, and an outstanding contribution to DXing.

Taking over as editor, as many of you will know, is another CDXC member, Chris Page, G4BUE. Chris is well known for his DXing, contesting and QRP activities, as well as running his well known publishing business, *Adur Village Press*. I wish Chris every success in taking on this challenging task - I am sure he will have the full support and help of CDXC members.

On the DX scene, one of the notable operations since the last Newsletter was the BV9P DXpedition to Pratas Island. Whether this will become a DXCC country in its own right remains to be seen. There is an interesting piece later in the Newsletter about the status of Pratas.

I have been fortunate in obtaining a quite fascinating and incredible account of the Conway Reef DXpedition which took place earlier this year. This story really gets over the dangers faced by DXpeditioners to some of the rarer spots, all for *The Deserving*. I guarantee that you won't put it down once you've started it!

The big news which broke just before writing this editorial is that there will be a DXpedition to Heard Island later this year, by members of the 3Y0PI team and others. Full details can be found later in the Newsletter. This is yet another risky venture. As Ralph Fedor, K0IR wrote recently: *"We face a difficult task. Heard is the most challenging of the sub-Antarctic islands. Winds regularly exceed 100 mph and blow snow, sleet, rain, and sand ... all at the same time. There is no reliable source of fresh water on the island. Landing and departure can be extremely difficult. However, we will give this expedition our best effort and will proceed with confidence."* Just think of that whilst you're in the comfort of your shack, trying to break that pile up, and remember it again when you're enclosing something with your QSLs.

Another DXpedition, which unfortunately I didn't work, and unfortunately for the operator, gained much bad press on the Internet DX Reflector and PacketCluster, was ZL8/G4MFW. This was a case of an inexperienced operator being thrown in at the deep end of the DX Pool, and finding he couldn't swim. Rather than throw him a life belt, with help and advice, many DXers were quick to push him under with heavy criticism and bad operating, some of which I agree was caused by inadequate pile-up control. The expedition was also accused of attempting to extort \$5 per QSL, although this was later refuted by Barry's QSL Manager. An altogether unfortunate episode, which can only have served to lessen Barry's enthusiasm for another DXpedition.

The IOTA Programme continues to go from strength to strength - the summer is, of course, the time when there are many small scale operations from holiday makers. A recent

island DXpedition of note was the trip by the City of Humber Bridge Amateur Radio Group to EU-006 Inishmaan - a really competent performance by the operators (at least while I was monitoring) - well done to them all. There has been some discussion on PacketCluster lately about the rate of QSL returns from IOTA operations. My own experience generally is in line with those who feel that the return rate is very poor - I have over fifty islands worked but not confirmed (which would take me 50 places up the IOTA table). I don't know what the reason for this low rate is, and don't suppose there is a lot that the IOTA Committee can do about it. Of course, the above is a generalisation - there are, of course some very good IOTA QSLers, G3ZAY and G4WFZ to name but two. The IOTA Contest will be with us again before long - another chance to boost your island totals, unless, of course, you are going on a trip outside your home country for the contest.

Congratulations are in order for Scott, G0SWG who has just passed all his US exams and now has the callsign AA2WX.

The June edition of RadCom (page 30) publishes full details of proposed changes to European VHF/UHF bands. HF DXers should be particularly concerned about the proposals to take part of the 70cm band from us - this will play havoc with the PacketCluster network. *Can I please urge you to write to the Licensing Advisory Committee, RSGB HQ, marking the outside of the envelope "DSI PHASE 2", expressing your views.*

Reg, GW8VHI, who has done such a good job improving links from the south to GB7BPQ, has been posted to Germany for several months. In May 1996, Reg expects to be posted to the Falklands, and anticipates spending some time on South Georgia, from where he hopes to be operational as VP8BPZ.

Many thanks to all our contributors, and to : G3NUG, G3OZF, G4JVG, G4MQM, G3RZP, G3XMZ, The Washington Post, SCDXC Bulletin, DXNS, and Les Nouvelles DX.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

By the time you read this Newsletter another ARM will be over, another year will have passed. We have seen a significant increase in membership in the past year. Let's hope that the new committee will continue these initiatives. There are still many DXers in the UK who are not members -- would members please encourage any active DXer to join. I am very happy to send a sample newsletter to anyone who may be interested. It's also been great to see that a number of DXers from abroad have joined up this year.

I would welcome some feedback regarding the 80 meter band DX windows. These are presently 3.500 - 3.510 MHz and 3.775 - 3.800 MHz. I raised the matter of the size of these windows at a recent RSGB HF Committee. In my view the SSB window of 25 kHz is totally inadequate allowing a maximum of 10 DX QSOs. With the poor radio conditions caused by the continued decline of the sunspot cycle many more DXers are switching to the LF bands. These narrow DX windows are, in my view, now inadequate to carry all the traffic. And of course, when a DX station works split frequency and listens in the DX window the whole window can be wiped out. Of course, this can be avoided by listening outside the window but then local traffic is affected. Let me stress that I fully support split frequency operations. In my view, they are the best way of working DX and avoid many of the phoney contacts made through nets and list operations.

I have offered to write a paper on the 80 meter band DX windows on behalf of the RSGB HF Committee to be submitted to IARU Region 1 next year. The paper has to be prepared by the end of this year so I would welcome feedback from members on this issue.

We have seen further operations from Scarborough Reef (BS7H) and from Pratas (BV9P) during April and May respectively. I am concerned that the DXCC people at the ARRL do not seem to have handled the decisions about country status for these two islands at all well.

Regarding Scarborough Reef the minimum size criteria was first voted on by DXAC in August 1994 shortly after the BS7H operation of June 1994. The Awards Committee then voted in October 1994 against the DXAC recommendation regarding minimum size.

The second Scarborough Reef operation then took place last April and we were all advised to work it again because the operation would be 'land based' from two separate rocks. The minimum size rule was then voted on again in April 1995 and was, on this occasion, accepted.

In May 1995, the DXCC desk announced that the minimum size rule went into effect on 20 April but the rule would not apply to Scarboro' Reef because the petition had been received before that date. The 1995 operation apparently meets the requirement for a land-based operation but the question of country still has to be resolved (China or Scarboro' Reef?).

The first Pratas operation took place in March 1994 and, in February 1995, DXAC voted against adding Pratas to the DXCC countries list. Concerns were cited about the possibility of intervening rocks and others perceived disputed ownership.

The second operation was in May 1995 This, we now are told, may count -- what's changed?

Bearing in mind that these operations were put on at great expense by teams from China (BS7H) and Taiwan (BV9P) and that amateur radio in China is still in its infancy and needs to be encouraged, it seems to me

that the decision making process at the ARRL needs shaking up and made much more effective and timely.

And as for giving credit for that recent operation from Myanmar Republic -- Well, Well!

I would like to record our thanks to Bren G4DYO who resigned last May as Editor of DX News Sheet. You did an excellent job for over 10 years -- Bren -- Well done. Our best wishes to Chris G4BUE who has now taken over.

JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

Well here we go again - the great debate about contests has reared its ugly head again! I have been looking back over the past years' RadComs and the same subject appears time and time again, and usually in the May and June editions. The interesting thing about it is that on non-contest weekends you very rarely hear anybody on the majority of the bands. I am a firm believer in the old saying "USE IT OR LOSE IT", and with the added pressures coming all the time on the spectrum by the commercial world we can see what is happening to some of the VHF and UHF allocations already. I feel quite sorry for those people who invested quite a considerable sum to go onto the 934 CB Band some years ago, the cost of equipment then was very high, and in consequence the band was under used and the great god Telecom came and gobbled it up. So I am quite happy to fill the amateur allocation with contests, there is normally somewhere where a contact can be made. I have a regular contact every Sunday afternoon into the Czech Republic on 20 meters, and have been doing so for the last five years. I can honestly say that apart from the odd propagation problem I have never been really inconvenienced by contests, the only thing I really object to is the lack of

observation of band plans for the various modes. There can be nothing more annoying than being in conversation with another station and a great blast of either RTTY or PACKET completely obliterates the frequency.

I might add that in some cases a seemingly dead band can be in fact be quite lively if only the "listeners" occasionally call CQ it's quite amazing what responses it can produce, there must be several hundreds of people around the world twiddling their knobs and saying to themselves "Band's dead, nobody around", when as happened last weekend a quick call produced several new band countries for me on 10 metres, a "dead band" was in fact really active, although in my part of the world it did disappear after a few hours, even an FM contact into Moscow was achieved with genuine 59 each way. What do you think, lets have your views on the subject, considering that the membership of CDXC are more contest oriented than most, how do you feel about it?

To date the numbers registered with me for the ARM will at least allow us to have a decent meeting. We have quite a few family members attending as well. Let's hope the weather is kind to us. Whilst on the subject of Barbecues congratulations to Herb on being the owner of a brand new G Zero call, nothing like being a "new boy", perhaps Herb you are going to start collecting countries all over again?

Sadly lacking from RadCom was any acknowledgement about Bren's resignation from the DXNS. I am not sure of all the circumstances of what went on, nor do I wish to be, but I must say that Bren has been what Amateur Radio is all about. And I for one would like to say publicly Thanks Bren you did a great job, and I know you and Ruth took a lot on when you agreed to be Editor over ten years ago, CDXC have I am glad to say have acknowledged your great

contribution to the hobby. It's a great shame that the RSGB couldn't do the same. It will be interesting to see how it evolves from now.

For those of you who do not know, I work in the Psychology Department of Broadmoor Hospital here in Crowthorne, and some two years ago with the assistance of the Management, Sir Jimmy Saville, Martin Lynch, Hilary Clayton-Smith, and another Staff member who is also licensed, a Novice Licence course was started. Needless to say the whole thing is closely monitored, and we have restrictions placed upon the use of the radios. We have had to work around several problems over the years, but the interest from the patients is quite high. Only a limited time can be devoted to teaching, and the selection of the patients is closely vetted, but we have managed to achieve some successes over the period. Four novice licences have been attained, and we are currently awaiting the results of the May RAE as two of the patients decided that the Novice Licence was not for them and wanted to take the full licence. Their morse is currently coming up to speed, and hopefully a test can be arranged for them. Our station is at the moment a Yaesu FT 101 ZD (Compliments of Jimmy Saville and Martin Lynch), with a G5RV as our means of communicating with the world. The patients are in the process of building their own receivers (Howes Kits), and hopefully within a short period we will have a VHF station as well. Contacts have so far been outside the UK, but it is intended to get a club call for the hospital, so listen out for us when that happens, I can assure you that our in house developed QSL cards will be much sought after!! Both Martin and Hilary have been guests here, and I think I can honestly say that they went away with a completely different opinion of Broadmoor than is given in the press. Unbeknown to all except Martin we took one of the patients, who is at this moment awaiting the RAE results, to Martin's Open Day last year. He spent the day happily chatting away to all

and sundry, and was completely accepted by all. Thanks Martin for allowing that to happen, it really gave him and us a boost. The hospital holds an Open Day once a year in the summer when aspects of the patients work is on show. I will place the dates onto the Cluster when they have been finalised, come and have a look around you might be amazed. 73 see you at the ARM. Dave

LETTERS

Dear Alan

I liked G4BUO's spoof Z codes, especially ZSH: "I have a hat with my name and call sign on it". Handy for rally-goers everywhere! It reminded me though that as a WOP in the RAF in Malaya in 1948 or so, we used an official Z code which supplemented the Q code. I don't remember if it was Service-wide, or only in that network of stations controlled by Singapore.

Try as I might, the only Z code I can remember was the unofficial and obvious one we operators added to the list: ZZZ - I am getting my head down, and INT ZZZ - Are you getting your head down? Dave's list has that one. Note, by the way, the interrogative INT before the question. The Services didn't use IMI at that time.

For a change of subject: DL9SC, Carl's nice letter with a quote from Confucius reminded me of a QSL I had from Kab, VU2BK, which had that quote printed on it. That was in 1979, and I've not heard Kab's rhythmic bug-keyed callsign for now. He is in the '94 Callbook so maybe it's just conditions, but I seem to remember he had quite a few turns on the coil when we last exchanged ages years ago in the All Asia Contest.

Your Newsletter is very good: it is the *only* magazine I read from cover to cover - congratulations!

Cheers, Colin, G3GHY.

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Alan,

The article by K0PP about BS7H bashing - there is another side of the coin. Ken seems to be saying that it's so hard to do such an expedition that no-one should moan about the downside. But doesn't that implicitly suggest that the DXCC Rules then can be bent with impunity by the DXpedition? Especially Rule 12 on fair play? And doesn't just working the one particular geographical area that the operator comes from for hours one end - from band opening to band closure, neglecting the rest of the world contravene Rule 12 of DXCC?

Under those circumstances, I don't believe Ken's argument holds.

73 Peter G3RZP

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Dear Alan

Many thanks for the May issue of the Newsletter which dropped onto the doormat with a nice resounding thud, which indicated that I was in for a good read. I was not disappointed, so thanks to the members who contributed to the Newsletter.

I have been very busy for the last month travelling here and there, all for ham radio, so that I can improve my lot here, and be heard and hear some of the DX that comes up now and again. I now have a nice new member of the family (which does not have "tiny pattering feet" - a nice thought, and one that I may work on at a later date!) - a 3 element beam, tower and rotator.

My XYL Marion agrees that it looks much better but her comments are "Now where do I hang the washing", now that the wire farm has gone. Thank goodness that I can crank it up to 40 ft, well out of "undies" reach!

I see in your editorial that you have had some problems getting hold of aluminium tubing for the A3S. Maybe I can help by giving you and our members details of a company who have a good supply here in Aylesbury. I bought 3 x 1/4, 3 x 5/8, 1 x 7/8 in 4 metre lengths at a cost of £30.93p. The company is: *Penn Aluminium Ltd.*,

Unit 13, Southern Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 3AP, Tel 01296 88810.

If not in stock, they will get what you need. Good luck and I hope that the above supplier can help, if not now, then in the future.

73, Cliff, G0MMI

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Hello Alan,

I have finally taken the plunge and changed my 'identity' and am now G0WAZ! I am holding the OZ7SM call since 1947 and it is strange to change the name so late in life!

The G/OZ7SM sometimes was a struggle in the pile-ups, but have managed 317 countries and 5 band DXCC (just waiting for 2 QSLs for 7 MHz) in 5 years.

73 es cu de Herb, G0WAZ

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I seem to have been delegated as the North American consultant on expedition communications and need some help. Every year an expedition of school age children from the British Schools Exploration Society travel to remote areas. This year they will be traveling to Alaska and their communication equipment sponsor has backed out.

The group needs to establish communication for about 6 weeks between eight base sites spread over remote mountainous terrain approximately 300 miles NE of Anchorage. They also need to be able to communicate back to civilization in case of an emergency and ideally would like to connect to the phone network for conversations back to the UK. Cost is a significant constraint - the group only has a few \$k to allocate to communication.

Any suggestions on how this network may be established and recommendations of suppliers would be greatly appreciated.

Chris Scholefield, Motorola, Richmond, BC, V4E 2X6, Canada.

Tel: (604) 241-6191 Fax: (604) 241-6030

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ACCOUNTS 1994-95

Mike Potter, G4PFF

CHILTERN DX CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1994-1995

	94/95	93/94
INCOME	UK Pounds	UK Pounds
SUBSCRIPTIONS	2211.50	1575.20
SOFTWARE SALES	230.00	365.00
ADVERTISING	235.00	125.00
MISC SALES	108.50	
RAFFLES	75.00	
LEGACY	200.00	
TOTAL INCOME	3060.00	2065.20

EXPENDITURE

PRINTING AND POSTAGE (NEWSLETTERS)	1699.45	1271.68
RSGB AFFILIATION	16.00	16.00
COMMITTEE EXPENSES	107.42	16.32
GIFTS, WREATH, TROPHIES	125.90	
BADGES & SALE ITEMS	545.32	
DONATIONS		
DXPEDITIONS	500.00	700.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2994.09	2004.00

CASH STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT		
B/F FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENT	307.50	190.63
INCOME	3060.00	2120.87
TRANSFER FROM DEPOSIT ACCT	500.00	
TOTAL	3867.50	2311.50
LESS EXPENDITURE	-2994.09	-2004.00
BALANCE ON HAND C/F	873.41	307.50

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

OPENING BALANCE	1268.70	1262.36
TRANSFER TO CURRENT ACCT	-500.00	
INTEREST EARNED	5.05	6.34
BALANCE ON HAND	773.75	1268.70

CURRENT ACCOUNT	873.41	307.50
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	773.75	1268.70
TOTAL CASH AT BANK	1647.16	1576.20

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. Current account retains 55.67 from Banaba Antenna fund
2. Legacy income is not intended for day to day expenditure.
3. Stock of for sale items written off at cost on purchase.
4. Advance subscriptions fully reflected in books at date of receipt.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PREPARED 1st June 1995

J M POTTER G4PFF

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Ken Chandler, G0ORH

Welcome to the *Advance Contest* information section of CDXC Newsletter. Most if not all will have heard through the cluster network that I've been invited onto the RSGB HF Contests Committee (HFCC) as of early April 95. Now I hope to have a better understanding of contests in all departments, and that means a better service to CDXC and its members too. The RSGB does intend to help new testers as much as possible by including a restricted section in various events. This will probably be by reducing the speed of CW sent (a major factor in deterring contest activity by newly licensed and older operators); low, and single element antennas; low power (100watts) or so, so that a person with a low G5RV can be on the same competitive level as his fellow operators. Their are also pens, mugs, and most importantly a new video is in the pipe line aimed at each and every one for clubs, and the individual.

The video will take you through from start to finish on contest set up, and operating procedures. This, I think, is definitely a major step forward on the contest scene.

If you can contribute in any way on these suggestions, I would most welcome your ideas.

CONTEST RESULTS & NEWS

RSGB 21/28MHz SSB 1994

Congratulations to RSGB Trophy Winners Keith Ginder, G3NAS, (leading single op, Powditch Trophy), and Steve Reed, G0AEV, (leading 28MHz op, Whitworth Trophy), both CDXC members, for their performance in the 21/28MHz SSB Contest in October 1994.

Other CDXC participants were, G4IUF,12, G0ORH,16, G6QQ,30.

	Call	Score	28MHz Score
1	G4MRS	214020	2016 Multi op
2	G3NAS*	155448	1404 Trophy Winner
3	G3TBK	119168	1710
4	G4OOC	96696	360 Multi op
5	GW4CC	91476	420 Multi op
6	G4DUW	83394	1536
7	G3TTJ	73476	145
8	G4IRC/P	58460	897 Multi op
9	G3FFH	57888	585
10	G4RFR	53136	---
11	G0FDX	47412	328 Multi op
12	G4IUF*	41724	264
13	G0FUN	35400	897 Multi op
14	G0JJN	25920	--- Multi op
15	G0GAG	23373	270
16	G0ORH*	23079	12
17	G2QT	21060	72
18	G2FNK	18522	897
19	G3JMR	17484	27 Multi op
20	G0OCE/P	17262	288 Multi op
21	GM3CIX	14640	63
22	G4IQM	13464	828
23	G0HDV	11280	147
24	G0AEV*	8277	8277 Trophy Winner
25	G0TSM	5994	525
26	G0IHB	4410	4410
27	G8CA	2808	27
28	G4ZYF	2736	96
29	G4ORC	2565	--- MULTI OP
30	G6QQ *	1188	48
31	G3WBM/P	1044	---
32	GW6GW	105	10

* CDXC MEMBERS.

CQ WWWPX SSB CONTEST 1994

G3NLY 8th position on 14MHz with 3,021,825 points.

GW8GT 3rd on 3.5MHz with 1,473,868 points.

ALL BAND.

GM3BCL	520,490 points
G5LP	290,656
GI0RDJ	48,081
G0RTI	27,285 L/PWR
GM0GNT	9,546
GM3CFS	78,800 14MHz L/PWR

MULTI OP, Single TX

G3OZF 5,202,148, 14th
G10KOW 5,175,162, 15th
G4UJS 3,570,688
GX0OBS 2,936,920
GC3SCA 1,673,250
GB6AR 1,495,865
GC0DPX 467,116

SINGLE OP, Assisted

GW4BLE 151,425 MULTI BAND

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CONTEST RULES

10th IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 1995

- 1) Eligibility: All licensed amateurs world-wide.
- 2) Object: To contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member-society HQ stations, around the world as possible using 1.8MHz-30MHz, excluding (10MHz 18MHz 24MHz) bands.
- 3) Date: Second full weekend of July (July 8-9 1995).
- 4) Contest Period: 1200 UTC Saturday until 1200 UTC Sunday. Both single and multi operator stations may operate for the entire 24hr period.
- 5) Categories:

- A) Single operator-phone only, CW-only and mixed mode.

One person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of spotting nets is not permitted. All operators must observe the limits of their operator's licence at all times. Single-operator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal at any given time.

- B) Multioperator-single transmitter, mixed mode only. Must remain on a band for at least 10 minutes at a time. Only one transmitted signal allowed at any given time.

(Exception: Only IARU member-society HQ stations may operate simultaneously on more than one bandwidth one transmitter on each band/mode. Only one HQ station call sign per member-society per frequency band is permitted.) All operators must observe the limits of their operators' licences at all times.

- 6) Contest Exchange: IARU member-society HQ stations send signal report and official IARU member society abbreviations. All others send signal report and ITU zone, (UK is 27). A complete exchange must be logged for each valid QSO.

- 7) Valid Contacts:

- A) The same station may be worked once per band/mode. Mixed-mode entries may work a station once per mode (but only in the generally accepted portions of that band for that mode. Reworking a station in the phone portion of the band on CW is not permitted). Example: On any band, a station may be worked once on phone and once on CW (in the CW segment) for additional QSO credits. However, this counts as only one multiplier. Cross-mode, cross-band and repeater QSOs do not count. Where contest preferred segments are incorporated in regional band plans, participants are requested to observe them.

- B) The use of non-Amateur Radio means of communication (e.g. telephone) for the purpose of soliciting a contact(or contacts) during the contest period is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the contest.

8) QSO Points:

A) Contacts within your own ITU zone and QSOs with ALL IARU HQ MEMBER SOCIETY Stations count ONE point.

B) Contacts within your own continent (but different ITU zone) count THREE points.

C) Contacts with a different continent count FIVE points.

9) Multipliers: Total number of ITU zones plus IARU member-society HQ stations worked on each frequency band. (Note: HQ stations do not count for zone Multipliers).

10) Scoring: Multipliers times the total number of QSO points.

11) Reporting: Entries MUST be postmarked no later than 30 days after the end of the contest (August 9 1995). No late entries will be accepted. Any entry received after mid-October 1995 may not be received in time to be included in the printed results. Use official forms, a reasonable facsimile, submit your entry on disc, upload your entry to the ARRL HQ BBS or send your entry to ARRL HQ via Internet!

Official entry forms are available from the ARRL/IARU secretariat for a SASE with 2 units of first class postage or 2 IRCs.

You may submit your entry on disc in lieu of paper logs. The disc must be IBM compatible, MS-DOS formatted, 3.5, 5inch discs. The log information must be in an ASCII file, and contain all log exchange information, (band, date, time in UTC, call sign of stn worked, exchange sent/received, multipliers, [mark first one] and QSO points). One entry per disc. An official summary

sheet or reasonable facsimile with signed contest participation disclaimer is required with all entries.

You may submit your contest entry via ARRL HQ BBS or via the Internet to contest@arrl.org. Send your ASCII summary sheet file (make sure it contains all the information as outlined in the official summary sheet), and your ASCII log file following the suggested log format.

Logs must indicate band, mode, date, time in UTC, call signs and complete exchanges (sent-received), multipliers and QSO points. Multipliers should be clearly marked in the log the first time that they are worked. Entries with more than 500 QSOs must include a cross-check or dupe sheets.

Contest summary, logs and cross-check sheet (if required) or discs should be sent to IARU HQ, Box 310905, Newington, CT 06131 0905 USA.

(12) Awards: A certificate will be awarded to the high-scoring CW-only, phone-only, mixed-mode, and, multioperator entrant in each state, each ITU Zone and each DXCC country. In addition, achievement-level awards will be issued to those making at least 250 QSO'S, or having a multiplier total of 50 or more. Additional awards may be made at the discretion of each country's IARU member society.

(13) Conditions of Entry:

Each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions of this announcement, by the regulations of his/her licensing authority and by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee, Acting for the IARU international secretariat.

(14) Disqualifications: An entry may be disqualified if the overall score is

reduced by more than 2%. Score reductions does not include corrections or arithmetic errors. An entry may be disqualified if more than 2% of duplicates are left in the log of which points are claimed. A three-QSO reduction will be assessed for each duplicate QSO found during log checking or for each mis-copied call sign.

RSGB SWL CONTEST 1995

Object of the contest: To log as many stations in QSO as possible. The contest is over 24 hours but only 18 hours may be used during the 24hrs, and a continuous 6-hour rest period must be clearly marked in the log.

Date and Times: 1200 UTC 8 July to 1200 UTC 9 July 1995.

Sections and Bands:

(A) SSB only, (B) CW only. Only one section may be entered, mixed-mode entries will not be accepted.

The 28MHz, 21MHz, 14MHz, 7MHz, 3.5MHz and 1.8MHz bands may be used. Please note that entrants from the British Isles must be members of the RSGB.

Scoring: For scoring purposes the station logged must be in QSO with another amateur station. It does not matter whether the station is taking part in a contest or not. CQ, QRZ or similar calls cannot be counted for scoring. One point to be claimed for each station heard on each band. A multiplier may be claimed for each different country heard on each band. In the case of the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, each call area numbered prefix may be claimed as a separate multiplier, for example, W1, W2, VE2, VE3, VK5, VK6, JA3, JA4 and so on. All other countries will be determined by the ARRL Countries List.

The final score is made up by the addition of the points scored on all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers claimed on all bands.

Logs: Logs should be shown in columns, time in UTC, callsign of station heard, callsign of station being worked, an RS(T) report on station heard at SWL's QTH, multiplier (if any), and points claimed.

If both sides of a contact are heard they may be claimed as separate stations, and the callsigns are to appear in the station heard column. Each station heard can only appear once in the station heard column on each band. In the column for station worked, a callsign must only appear once in every three contacts logged (1 in 3) unless it is a new multiplier for the receiving station. The same station worked may not be used for more than three successive multipliers.

Logs should be submitted with each band listed on separate sheets, 28MHz on one sheet, 21MHz on another sheet and so on. A separate sheet listing all multipliers for each band should be included.

Duplicate loggings for which points have been claimed will be penalised at 10 times the contacts value.

Address for entries: R A Treacher, BRS 32525, 93 Elibank road, Eltham, LONDON SE9 1QJ. England. Entrants should ensure their entries are postmarked no later than 1 August 1995.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the leading three entrants in each section in the British Isles section provided there is a minimum of 10 entrants. A certificate will be awarded to the leading station in each country in the overseas section provided that stations scores at least 50% of that section winner's score.

LOW POWER FIELD DAY (CW)

- (1) The General Rules for RSGB HF contests RadCom(Jan 95) apply.
- (2) When: 0900 - 1200 and 1300-1600 UTC, Sunday 16 July 1995.
- (3) Sections: (A) 10W RF output maximum. (B) 3W RF output maximum.

Single or multioperator entries will be accepted in both sections.

- (4) Mode and Frequencies: 3510-3560kHz and 7010 - 7040kHz CW only. Both bands may be used during each session. Any station (including overseas) may be contacted once on each band.

(5) Special conditions:

- (i) The power for all parts of the station must be derived from batteries, pre-charged accumulators or natural sources such as solar power cells or wind driven generators. Float charging accumulators from petrol, gas or diesel driven generators is not permitted.

- (ii) The transmitter or outboard PA must not be capable of RF output power in excess of 15W.

- (iii) Antennas must not exceed 11m above ground and may have no more than 2 elevated supports.

- (iv) The station must be 'portable'(Rule 10 general Rules).

- 6) Exchange etc.: RST, serial number, county code and RF output power in Watts. Serial numbers commence at 001 and continue through both sessions. Output power should be expressed as one or two digits plus 'W' in place of the decimal point, e.g.

'10W', '1W', '1W5', (1.5W), '0W1' (100mW). Participants using more than 10W may send QRO instead (QRO stations are not eligible to enter the contest but are welcome to 'give away points').

- (7) Scoring: 15 points for each QSO with a QRP Portable or Mobile station; 10 points for a QRP fixed station; 5 points for all other QSOs. For the purposes of scoring, QRP stations' are those using 10W RF OUTPUT OR LESS.

- (8) Address and closing date for logs: As in General Rules.

- (9) Awards: The Houston-Fergus and Southgate Trophies to the winners of sections A and B respectively. Certificates to the first three entrants in each section and to the QRP fixed station submitting a check log and giving the most points to entrants.

IOTA 29/30 July

See May Newsletter for complete rules. See separate listing for island DXpeditions expected to be active for the contest.

ROPOCO 2 (Rotating post codes)

- 1) The General Rules: RSGB General Rules (HF) contests apply.

- 2) Date & Times: 0700-0900UTC Sunday 6 August 95.

- 3) Band & Mode: 3520-3570kHz, CW only.

- 4) Exchange: RST only, PLUS (a) for the first QSO, the Entrants own Post Code and (b) for each subsequent QSO, the Post Code received from the previous contact.

- 5) Scoring: TEN points per QSO, Contacts with UK stations only.
- 6) Awards: Certificates to the leading three entrants. Trophies to the highest scoring - entrant with a perfect or the most accurate log; the G3XTJ Memorial Trophy. The G5MY Trophy to the highest aggregate score from both ROPOCO 1 & 2 events. Easy have Fun!

EUROPEAN DX WAE (CW)

On CW from 0000Z - 2400Z 13 August 95.

Work Stations once per band; 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28 MHz only.

Entry Classes: Single operator, all band; Multi-operator, single Transmitter; SWL section. Stations must remain on a band for at least 15 minutes, EXCEPT for a quick QSY to work new Multipliers. DX CLUSTER support is allowed for all operator classes. Single operators may operate a Maximum of 36hrs. The 12hrs of off - time may be taken in one to three periods and must be at least one hour long and noted in the log. Non EU stations work EU only.

Exchange: RST & Serial Number i.e. 001. W/K station will give their state.

Points: ONE point per QSO and ONE point per QTC. QTC is a report of QSO which was made earlier in the contest and is only made by a non - EU station to EU stations only. The QTC will contain the time, callsign and QSO number of the station being reported, e.g. (1307/G0ORH/543). A QSO may only be reported once and not back to the originating station. A Maximum of 10 QTCs to the same station is allowed; the same station may be worked several times to complete this quota. Only the original QSO, however, has QSO point value. Keep a uniform of QTCs sent. For example, QTC 3/7 would indicate that this is the third series

of QTCs sent, and that 7 QSOs were reported.

Awards: List 40 QSOs or QTCs per sheet, and separate logs per band. A dupe sheet must be included for bands with more than 200 QSOs.

Logs to be submitted by 15 September 95, to: WAEDC Committee, PO Box 1126, D-74370 Serheim, Germany.

WAE Check list

C3, CT, CU, DL, EA, EA6, EI, F, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HB0, HV, I, IS, IT, JW, JX, LA, LX, LZ, LY, OE, OH, OH0, OJ0, OK, ON, OY, OZ, PA, SM, SP, SV, SVm, SV5, SV9, T7, T9, TA1, TF, TK, UR, ES, YO, YU, ZA, ZB, Z3, S51A, 3A, 4UI, 4U, 9H.

My apologies if I have not included all countries.

That's it for this issue. There should be some very good reports out on HF field day this year if the band conditions are anything to go by. 28 MHz, Sporadic E propagation was excellent and it will be very interesting to see who just comes out top this year.

I will publish a fuller report on NFD 95 in the next Issue of CDXC Newsletter.

My thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, RSGB DXNS, CQ & QST Publications for without them much of this information would not be available.

Lastly, if you have any input, are running a contest station and that may require extra ops then let me know of your requirements, I can do no more. I hope you all have successful contesting months ahead and look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks and 73 de Ken, G0ORH.

NATIONAL FIELD DAY 1995 AS SEEN BY LICHFIELD B *Chris Burbanks, G3SJJ*

Well, this was going to be the big hit, a six right over the pavilion into the next county. In reality, it didn't quite work out that way. The team at G3VHB/P consisted of G3VHB and myself, Herb G0WAZ came along for a while on the Friday evening and on Saturday, we were pleased to have David and Gary from the South Notts ARC. Once the contest began, we were on our own and on reflection, there was just not enough people for the amount of hardware we had planned. By 1500 we had actually erected three Versatower trailer masts, a TH7 on one, 2 element Cushcraft for 40m on the second and a 6 element monobander for 10m on the third, each of course had its own rotator, cable and coax. A dipole for 160 and an 80m delta loop, apex down between two of the masts completed the antenna system. Switching was remote using a Top Ten relay box controlled by CT which also band

changed the FT1000.

The first four hours went like a dream once we had negotiated 10m at the start. This is always a problem for the more northerly stations, as we can hear people working Gs south of the M4 who are just not audible to us. I knew the hourly rates that G3ULT/P achieved last year and we were shadowing these well. It was looking good, but perhaps we should have been warned when Chris went to collect the spare generator at 1630 and found the hire shop shut! Still we used our present generator last year and it ran very smoothly. Around 1900, all went dead..... our first thoughts were that the fuel had run out but the tank was reasonably full and then the reality set in. The generator was still running, check fuses - they're OK. The test meter was registering 23 volts instead of 230. Further checks realised our worst fears. The generator was beyond immediate repair. Totally dejected, we just sat looking at each other trying to come to terms with our fate. Oh well, it was a pleasant dream, if only

Known QSOs to date

	160	80	40	20	15	10	
TOTAL RESTRICTED							
GW3LNS	179	198	217	206	115	140	1055
G3GRS	184	234	219	182	142	98	1059
GM3POI	166	148	215	342	76	59	1006
GW8GT	145	187	147	225	72	180	956
GW0AAA	141	172	209	158	59	161	901
G3ULT	127	162	209	238	112	93	941
G4FNL	161	192	172	176	102	101	905
G3OZF	163	215	214	172	62	60	886
G4BRA	211	-	-	-	-	-	211
OPEN							
G3KHZ	187	216	294!	159	82	89	1027
G3SDC	144	159	200	201	123	123	950
G4ALE	160	193	190	186	111	100	940
GM6NX	117	143	212	232	117	116	937
G3TBK	167	214	207	134	53	97	874
G4RCG	87	98	138	212	58	140!	733
G3ZME	106	176	129	115	40	132!	688
G4FUH	183	117	188	111	21	62	682

NFD 1995 -RESTRICTED ENTRY BY GW3LNS/P

Dave Sharred, G3NKC

As last year, the Lichfield ARS planned 2 entries for NFD 1995; G3VHB and G3SJJ usually compete in the open section, and the restricted entry usually consists of G3KDB, G3LNS and G3NKC. This is the tale of the restricted entry....

We usually have a choice of 2 sites at our disposal, a local site (winning site for SSB FD on many occasions, but we always seem to perform poorly in NFD), and a site just across the Welsh border, near the village of Llansilin. We performed very well from here 2 years ago, until we suffered a genny failure on the Sunday morning; the feeling is that we have an advantage on 10 from here, since the site is at 1700 feet. It is very exposed, and is often difficult to get up to; impossible in the wet! To this end, we usually have the Lichfield site in reserve for adverse conditions. Probably 3 months ago, we started to plan this year's NFD; and went through the usual site debates; I must admit to being quite negative about using the Llansilin site, because of the harshness! Probably the deciding vote came from Keith, G3NAS, who said if we didn't go to Wales, he would not come at all!

We decided to use our normal doublet antenna, a double extended Zepp for 20, and extended for 160/80m. This is supported by 2 poles. We took along my TS930, and George's TS940, both pretty good rigs with good filters. We would not have a 2nd RX capability worst luck, but would make do. The second rig was purely a spare. The 940 was elected as THE rig, since we could interface this with the computer. We only use one ATU, a Dentron one. This is pre-calibrated for all bands. Not as fast as stacked ATUs, but we were very slick on band changing this year. The operating shack would be George's Espace; we turned the front seats around, removed the middle rear

seat for leg room, folded the seats flat and put wood across the "bridge". A very versatile vehicle!

This year, Pete, G3KDB did not want to operate, but still wanted to come and help. So the operators were only George and myself. We also had Keith, G3NAS and Roger, G3NLY as helpers. We decided to try computer logging again this year; previous machines at our disposal have been proven to be too noisy on site to be of use. We used George's computer this year, running CT9.

We eventually got the cars fully loaded at about 16:30; and set off. We found Wales to be reasonably dry, and were able to drive with ease to the top of our mountain. In wet conditions, it is often very difficult to reach this site, we have had to assist cars in the past. We noticed in the next field a wind speed and direction recorder, confirmation of the exposed nature of this site; it is being surveyed as a possible site for a Wind power generator.

By about 7:30, it was time to head down the mountain, to the Wynstay Arms, for Pedigree and a meal; a very friendly village pub with very good value food (large gammon steaks were favourite, at £5.25!). The return up the mountain gave us brilliant views of the lit towns in the distance; Shrewsbury, Oswestry could be seen, and the lights from Chester over the horizon. That night produced a torrential downpour, which resulted in a poor night's sleep for most of us.

We were up early next morning to start putting the antenna up; thankfully it was only light drizzle by this time. The operating position was sorted out and the "stall" set up, ready for action. We started the hire generator, and were stunned (shocked) to find no volts to the equipment. After some checks, we confirmed that there was a problem with the generator; Keith

discovered that a connector was burnt out in the 240V/110V distribution box! And the generator was supposed to have been checked out! We then discovered that it was producing 300V instead of 240V; the voltage adjuster had been severely abused previously. We reckon the hire shop must owe us for repairing their generator. We had a spare thankfully, should anything more untoward happen.

We checked out the antenna on all bands, logging the antenna tuner settings, checking at the same time that the computer was quiet on all bands. All seemed to be in order, so we descended the mountain again for more beer, and another fine meal.

Getting back up the hill was more eventful; predictably, we had big problems getting back up across the wet grass; we tried to push Keith's car up, getting covered in mud from the rear tyres, all to no avail. In the end, most of us walked up, and Keith went to get assistance from our friendly farmer. He did not have to tow Keith up in the end; he was able to show Keith a route that was not so steep.

Prior to the contest, we discovered some computer hash that we never heard before on 10m; we had no choice but to run with it. Signals that were on 10m earlier were significantly weaker as the start time got nearer; a sign that we would not be on 10m for too long at the start. In fact, we only stayed there for 16 mins and 13 QSOs, with all stations being Gs. We operated in 4 hour shifts, with G3NKC starting. I moved to 20m for the next 65 QSOs in 38mins, again returning to check 10m, only resulting in catching G4ALE/P. So, 40m was next at 16:06, for 30 mins and another 46 QSOs. I deliberately kept moving frequently, following advice from the masters of this event, G3ULT/P, always checking 10m first. No more double pointers resulted on 10m until next morning.

From last years results, I noted the early QSOs had on 80m, and duly tried the band at 17:35; I left it after 15mins and 17 QSOs because too many of the G's I worked were not portables. We would save 80m until much later on.

In the search for higher QSO rates, checked 15m at 17:59, but only got DF0DF/P, so returned to 40m. The pattern then produced QSOs on 20/40/80 then for the rest of my 4 hour stint I was called by VU2TS and VU2PTT on 20 during this period, always nice to work DX! George took over at 19:00; finding all of his QSOs on the LF bands. The first 160m visit was at 19:58; the bulk of the LF QSOs starting at 20:38 though.

By the time I next came on at 23:00, George had pushed our QSOs to 442. I had to try and increase the 160m total from about 90 during my next stint. It really is important to chase the double point bands! Coming off again at 0300, I was still unhappy with 160; thankfully George found more QSOs before sunrise.

I went to my ridge tent to try and catch some sleep at this time; the wind was fierce at this point preventing a decent sleep; I was later disturbed by the others, since the frame tent was in danger of taking off, and needed strapping down! My ridge tent had its poles severely bent beyond repair; these winds were coming from a different direction than the more moderate ones earlier. I was so tired I climbed in the tent all the same.

Returning at 07:00, George had got the QSO count up to 694, we were pleased with progress up till now. I took over, and tried 10m immediately. I heard a couple of loud EAs, and an Italian, but could get no takers to CQ calls. I went to 15m, and found the band buzzing, often 15m gets neglected. Funnily enough, I caught the back end of a CQ call, called him blind, only to find out that he was DF0DF/P, the only other station

I had worked on the band! I returned to 10m at 0752, and was able to work DLs under very patchy, selective propagation. Frequent returns to 10m were the order of the day until the end of the contest. I must admit to feeling glad to see the end of the contest; we

could then dismantle everything, and look forward to a nice bath, and a comfy bed to sleep in, without the howling winds or lashing rain!

We finished the contest with the following tally:

Band:	160	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
QSOs:	179	198	217	206	115	140	1055

The actual score is still to be worked out! We came away feeling pretty happy with the score; a best effort for our club in the restricted section. Some post contest information suggests that it could well be a very competitive score; so we shall be checking the logs for errors very carefully!

Again, many thanks to Keith, Roger and Pete for their assistance on site.

Commiserations to the Chris's, G3VHB and G3SJJ; they went out very early with generator problems. No Lichfield open section entry this year, chaps!

73 de Dave

NFD SCUNTHORPE ARC G4FUH/P.

Betty Jackson, G0NYL

Well it had to rain one year, and we have been lucky for the last few years. It came down steadily whilst the station was being assembled, but stopped when we had completed it, typical! The following antennas were erected, 160m dipole fed with 145 ohm ladder line @ 60ft., dipoles for 80 and 40, and a 3el tribander; thus using a multi-way coaxial switch we were able to change bands quickly. The generator produced 100 volts output into a transformer, which in turn fed a battery charger connected to a large car battery; this would give us a few hours life in case of generator failure.

*Sunday's storm produced flashes of lightning causing the ATU connected to the 160M antenna to flash over inside, when G4OGB attempted to disconnect the feeder (after all, it was his rig!); he received quite a shock. Les finally managed this, but the ends kept arcing over, each time this happened, it triggered the electronic keyer!

During NFD a number of amateurs were taking lessons in dowsing (water divining) from a local farmer using two lengths of stiff wire. As he walked about the site, the wires swung from side to side. Peter G3KNU was sceptical, so he decided to try his hand at it, and was very surprised to find that he had the gift. When moving under the antennas the divining rods crossed over through 90 degrees, then when he moved to the other side, they came round until they were 180 degrees to each other. The strange thing was that they did not swing in unison with the keyer HI! A remarkable feature of the divining was that not all the members had this strange gift. We have noted the criteria for choosing NFD sites, and with tongue in cheek, it has crossed our minds that the above data could perhaps be included when making site choices?

Finally, this year's score is much improved on last year, due to the information we received through the antenna lectures and field day presentations at the HF Convention.

73/88 de Betty Jackson G0NYL @ G3KNU
@ GB7YDX

VISALIA 95

Don Field, G3XTT

Having accumulated a number of air miles during the past year, I decided I would like to use them to visit either Visalia or Dayton. Sadly, I would not have time for both. Dayton, of course, is a large trade show, with an attendance of perhaps 40,000 or so. Visalia is the Convention on which our own HF Convention is modelled; primarily a social event geared to the interests of HF DXers and Contesters. Thinking about the likely weather in the two locations in April tipped me towards Visalia, which had the added benefit of being able to visit with old friend Dick AA6MC, better known to CDXC members as G0MFO.

My pre-flight preparation included a shopping trip to Fortnum & Mason to secure some jars of Sir Nigel's special marmalade, which Dick wanted to give to Barb Leeson KK6QM (XYL of W6QHS). The flight itself was uneventful, and I was delighted to find both Dick himself, and Trey WN4KKN, at San Francisco airport to meet me. Trey was unable to get to the Convention, but had wanted to say hello. En route to Dick's house we stopped off at Ham Radio Outlet, but I managed to resist temptation apart from buying a copy of the 1995 issue of K1DG's Amateur Radio Almanac (a fascinating read).

There is no mistaking Dick's house. He has recently got the necessary permissions for a truly awesome DX and contest station (though not without having to fight a petition to have the permit revoked, a fight which cost him the equivalent of a transceiver in legal fees!). Atop an 89ft wind-up tower is a stack consisting of 6ele 20/3ele 40 on the same boom, 30m dipole, 80m shortened dipole, and a 10/12/15/17m trapless Yagi. All the antennas are from Force 12, of whom more later. These antennas would be noticeable in any case, but San Jose ordinances require them to be

no more than 35ft high when not in use, and with the tower retracted the big 20/40m beam dominates the house (or bungalow as we would call it here). Dick has wired his station for multi-single operation, and has even managed to put on a limited multi-multi effort, which shows what can be achieved by separate feeds on the same boom, and judicious use of Dunestar bandpass filters.

The plan had been to have an outdoor bar-be-cue that evening, but by Californian standards the weather was positively nippy, so we made do with an indoor party. Attendees included Dave and Barb Leeson (W6QHS & KK6QM), Bob N6TV, Bruce AA6KX, AA6VB and AE6Y, all members of NCCC (Northern California Contest Club). Incidentally, Dick is not only the secretary of NCCC, but is also the newest Director of the Northern California DX Foundation

It was an early start the following day for the longish drive down to Visalia. We picked up Bob N6TV, and I had chance to look at his close-spaced stack of monobanders (10 through 40, plus an 80m shortened dipole) on an 89ft wind-up tower which, like Dick's, has to be kept retracted at 35ft when not in use. Bob was due to chair the Contests forum at Visalia, and had been up most of the night preparing his notes, so he spent most of the journey asleep on the back seat of the car. Guess he'll never know the rude things Dick and I were saying about him!

Within moments of arriving at the Visalia Holiday Inn we spotted a well-known sight - Peter G3RZP with beer in hand! Don G3OZF and his wife Chris G3YSR appeared shortly afterwards, having spent the previous week travelling through Northern California. G3CAQ, another CDXC member, who we bumped into later, rounded off the UK representation.

After the formal opening of the Convention on the Friday evening, that well-known

double act of Jack Troster W6ISQ and Jim Maxwell W6CF set out to stir up the conversation by proposing a restart of the DXCC programme on 1st January 2000. Bill K5FUV of the DXCC desk, who was also on the podium, confirmed that, should such a decision be made (and there would have to be a democratic debate about how it might be handled, and whether the criteria would change at the same time), then the DXCC desk and computer could certainly handle it (plans are in hand to replace the current computer system, which is becoming obsolescent, and the specification for its replacement will allow for lots of flexibility). The vote from the floor was overwhelmingly in favour of at least considering a restart of the programme, though there was a significant minority who felt that the question should not even be raised.

Before heading off out to eat there was an opportunity to watch Tom Schiller N6BT of Force 12 antennas installing a 40/80 beam adjacent to the swimming pool. This antenna, which has two shortened 40m elements, and two shortened 80m elements on the same boom, is very impressive, and remarkably manageable. Too big for my back garden though, even so. M2 Antennas were also there, installing one of their long-boom 4-element 20m Yagis, another fine antenna.

For dinner Dick picked a Mexican restaurant out of the local Yellow Pages. The restaurant was perfectly acceptable with one major exception - it didn't serve alcohol. This would not have been an issue except that Peter G3RZP came with us, and the look on his face when apprised of this information had to be seen to be believed!

The Saturday programme included a full line-up of presentations, as well as a limited number of trade stands. There was considerable interest in the new Icom IC-775, with its promise of greatly extended use of DSP facilities, and the Icom booth soon ran out

of descriptive leaflets and had to photocopy some more. Dick Erhorn W4ETO was there with an Alpha 87, and the new Alpha 91B (or, more accurately, 91 Beta, if one had Greek script). This latter is of considerable interest at only \$2800 or thereabouts. It is an East European clone of the Alpha 89, but at a much lower price. There was some concern about it at the Convention, as both the Conway Reef and Scarborough Reef expeditions had encountered problems with pre-production models of the 91B, but W4ETO claims that these problems have now been ironed out. There will be a review in the next issue of National Contest Journal (NCJ) and probably in other publications.

Expedition presentations included 3DA0Z (CQWW SSB) by N6ZZ, Conway Reef by NI6T (an expedition so beset by difficulties that even the projector failed and had to be replaced), YK0A (with the team dressed in full Arab gear) and, on the Sunday morning, BS7H. This latter presentation was by JA1BK, BZ4HAM and KJ4VH, and also included a run down on current amateur activity from China and a formal announcement of the Beijing International Amateur Radio Convention, to be held from 13 to 16th October. Foreign visitors will be able to use the Convention callsign BT1DX and, in true Chinese fashion, the programme will include acrobats (swinging from an HF Yagi, no doubt).

Unsurprisingly, the main topic at the DX Forum was the country status of Scarborough Reef. The West Coast DXers were incensed at the announcement of the 10,000 sq. ft rule, and felt the timing of the announcement (a couple of days after the BS7H operation had ended) was not a coincidence. There was considerable disquiet about the process by which the DXAC had gone about agreeing the new rule and not a little speculation that if Scarborough Reef had been off the East Coast of the US, rather than the West Coast, that a different decision might have been reached! Jack W6ISQ, who collects rocks from the various DXCC countries, was given a piece of BS7 for his collection. It was so large that it probably represented about 50%

of that part of BS7 which remains above high tide mark!

The Contest Forum was entertaining, but covered fairly well trodden ground - 10 minute rule for multi-single, contest ethics, points system for WPX, selection criteria for World Radiosport Team Championship, etc. Little did we know at that stage that two of the distinguished panellists, Dick Norton N6AA and Jim Neiger N6TJ, would, after the evening dinner, be inducted by Bob Cox K3EST into the CQ Contests Hall of Fame. Speaking to them afterwards, both felt that this was truly a signal that they were over the hill!

If you are ever at Visalia, don't omit the lunchtime bar-be-que at US Towers, just 5 minutes drive from the Holiday Inn. This is one of the great social events of the Convention, and it was wonderful to chat with such a great bunch of guys while eating delicious steak in 80 degree sunshine.

IOTA featured prominently, being mentioned in the BS7H talk and promoted heavily at the Yaesu booth. Chip K7JA is certainly doing IOTA proud through Yaesu's sponsorship, and I detected a great deal of interest among the gathered multitudes.

625 people sat down to the formal Saturday evening dinner, after which the dedicated moved to the Northern California Contest Club hospitality suite for some late night drinking and conversation. The hospitality suite consisted of two adjacent hotel bedrooms, one of which I was sharing with Dick (who is currently secretary of NCCC), so there was no sneaking off to bed early for me. Indeed, Dick had filled our bath with ice to cool the drinks, and to do so had spent every spare moment during the day raiding every ice machine in the hotel! One of the last people to arrive for the party was Jan ZS6NW whose flight from South Africa had been delayed, and who had therefore missed the day's proceedings. It was good to meet Jan again, though, having run into him after my ZS9 jaunt last year. Other overseas visitors, not previously mentioned, included ZA1T (currently studying in the US),

XE1L (and several other of the XE gang) and JA3CZY.

After the Sunday breakfast BS7H presentation, the Convention rounded off with the main draw. The big three manufacturers are extremely generous, each donating an HF transceiver, and there are lots of other high value prizes. Sadly, the only G to win a prize was Don G3OZF who came away with a magazine subscription. The prize tickets were drawn by Jenny, a vivacious 9 year-old, who has recently upgraded to General Class, and made 500 CW QSOs in the last Novice Roundup contest. So step forward those of you who find CW a chore!

The drive back to San Jose passed uneventfully, with N6TV once again asleep on the back seat. The following morning Dick had to go in to work, so I took advantage of the time to air my US call and work some DX from California. Sadly the bands were in poor shape, and I was only able to work a couple of European stations. For a European it's distinctly odd to find the bands all but full of stations from the same DXCC country as yourself, but that's how it sounds most of the time from California at this stage of the cycle except when there is activity from the Pacific or when the bands open to Japan.

On the way back to the airport we dropped in to see the Force 12 factory. Tom told us that there have been two 35% hikes in the price of aluminium stock in recent months, so I would suggest buying those HF Yagis before the price goes up much more. It was good to see his enthusiasm and obvious competence and to know that there is another choice of HF antennas (GW3YDX is UK importer), with a wide range of models.

Dick passes on his regards to old friends in the UK and only regrets that business has yet to bring him back to our part of the world. For my part, I am extremely grateful to him and Laurene for their generous hospitality and the opportunity to attend my third Visalia. It certainly won't be the last.

VISALIA & DAYTON

Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

CDXC turned out 4 members at Visalia - Bill G3CAQ, Don G3OZF, Don G3XTT, and myself, all wearing CDXC badges. A W6 commented on us all being CDXC members, and OZF described it succinctly as "If you're a DXer in the UK, you belong to CDXC. If you don't, you're not a DXer!"

I met BZIHAM, and gave him a QSL for BS7H. I got one of the 1000 cards available back, although it doesn't include the 7MHz QSO, but we'll worry about that later.

There was discussion on where DXCC is going. Bear in mind that the average age at Visalia must be 55+ if not more, so that a lot of people have everything worked, there was a tendency to want new countries, even if, like BS7H, they barely provide enough operating surface at high tide. Many seemed to think that without new countries, the DXCC programme wouldn't exist for long. W6ISQ and W6CF presented a proposal to start DXCC again from 0000 on Jan 1, 2000, to get round this. Nobody seemed to accept that - there are a lot of people out there still moving up the DXCC ladder, and if you've got to the top, you can always graduate to IOTA!

The presentation by the BS7H crew was good, but seeing the photo of it at high tide, it takes some stretching of my imagination to accept it as a new country. The large majority of those present were against the new rule about country size - it was said that Mellish and Conway don't count under this rule. An argument was latent that the Chinese had gone to a lot of trouble to put on BS7H, and it would do no good to their relationship with ARRL to reject it. But of course, we had that with the JAs back in the 1970's with Baldwin's Reef! I asked K14JH about the Saturday business of only working the US. The response was very much "so what?" I could support an argument that BS7H shouldn't count for DXCC because of

that - the "fair play" clause.

There was some discussion about the criteria of choice for the WRTC Championship. Generally, it was felt that the choice was unsatisfactory, and K1DG told me at Dayton that he didn't qualify under those criteria. Most people felt that it should be like the Olympics - the team is chosen by the country under whatever criteria they wish. I suggested that it would be more interesting if each team was given a very big box of components and had to build a rig first! Not only would that sort the men from the boys, but it would mean that far more skills were required. Not generally accepted!!

The YK0A presentation went on a bit long - most people didn't want the travelogue. To get the weight of the outgoing packages up to the weight of the incoming packages (satisfying Customs!), they had to bring back some hammers, duly autographed by various Syrian hams. These were auctioned, with proceeds to the North Cal DX Foundation. I suggested to W6CF, who was acting as MC, that the real way to raise money was to auction a "Wild Card" on sealed bid auction. The purchaser could use it for any DXCC country he needed, including deleted ones. Jim built this up, saying that "G3RZP, as a Past President of RSGB, has petitioned the DXAC, and has persuaded them to introduce a new Rule, effective at midnight on April 22nd, to allow the sealed bid auction at Visalia of the wild card." Some people only twigged when Jim and I argued over whether my cut was 2% or 10%! However, two crusty old South Cal guys accused me later of bringing DXing into disrepute with such a lack of respect!!! One or two more thoughtful ones speculated as to just how much a serious auction of that kind would bring in, and who would bid. They figured that several thousand dollars at least would be raised....

Force 12 antennas were at Visalia, showing off their 80 and 40 metre beam. It didn't look that big, although I felt it looked fragile. However, I'm assured that it had withstood

W1 style winters at a number of locations. The C4 looks good, and maybe.....depends on the cash reserves....

US Towers provided a free barbecue lunch on the Saturday, and what a barbecue. Great slabs of beef and pork - no good for vegetarians. The sun blazed down, and a hat would have been a good idea.

I visited the QTH of Dave and Barbara Leeson, W6QHS and KK6QM. This is up the top of a mountain, near Los Gatos at the south end of Silicon Valley, and definitely falls in the "eat your heart out" category. They have 68 acres, and rent out space on a tower to commercial interests. Motorola have a tower up there as well, which has had wire antennas attached. There are a total of 5 towers including the Motorola one, as well as a sky needle type telescopic one with a log periodic on it. Looking to the north, you can see up to San Francisco some 40 odd miles away, and to the south, down to Monterey, some 60 miles, depending on the cloud cover. It must be at least 3000 feet up - the car groaned going up, and the brakes got hot going down! You can certainly look down on the summit of route 17, which is 2000 feet up. The TH7 for running JAs in contests is about 40 feet up, and surprisingly, has proved one of the most robust antennas up there, where 80 mph winds are common.

Dayton was blessed with atypical WX. On the Friday, I started the in the flea market, and the first thing to be bought was a hat to keep the sun off! It didn't get so hot that a thin sweater could be shed until the Saturday, when shirt sleeves were *de rigueur*. The flea market was full of the usual mixture of junk and goodies. If only there was some way of getting 1-1/4 inch diameter Heliax home! But I saw enough stuff there that you could build a 2KW output linear with for under \$200. A new product from Radioware is an HF transceiver card for the PC. It's a complete HF SSB/CW/FM/AM transceiver,

using direct conversion and lots of DSP, giving 100 microwatts out to an external 100 watt linear, which is available. It costs about \$500, with free software updates. I've got data sheets, and it appears very good. G3ZVC (now KF6C) is the guiding light behind it - some of you may remember him as a VHF contester in the early 70s. If you're happier with a keyboard than a conventional set of knobs and buttons, this could be for you! I could see the days of the computer station occasionally deigning to talk to the operator coming even nearer. Can a computer get a licence if it passes the exams????

The new ICOM with its DSP was displayed, although nobody could answer all my technical questions on phase noise etc. Looks good, if expensive, but I doubt that I'll dump the FT102 yet awhile. For me, the highlights of Dayton are the hospitality suites, especially the Kansas City DX Club. This year, I did appallingly in the pile up tape, only getting 22, although it was generally admitted to be a tough one. Although not available this year, the KCDXC video tapes are compulsive watching - the SP00F DXpedition and The Hired Key being ones that come to mind. If you get a chance, see them - although the crusty old fogies from South Cal DX Club who didn't like the wild card would not approve! The KCDXC suite also featured 'QSL Manager's Gin' in a specially prepared bottle - a reference to the fuss last year when they stopped running the 0 bureau for a while.

The Mad River Club was also interesting, with copies of the 59(9) DX REPORT being handed out. This seemed pretty interesting. I was a bit surprised at the amount of interest being shown in 160, and must get things sorted out for the Autumn at home.

It's interesting that there are complaints in the States of DX Cluster being blocked with non DX spots, like G's on 20 in the mid

west. Guess that's about it.

At the USAF museum on the Monday (well worth a visit) it seemed impossible to move without walking into Martin Lynch and Henry, G3GIQ. I gather they enjoyed it, too. Hope that you can pull something useful out of all this. According to the 59(9) DX report, the Navassa expedition is delayed to the end of May, which is a good thing for me - I'll be back from holiday by then!

RAMBLINGS OF G3CAQ

Bill Moorwood, G3CAQ

Well, the weekend of 13/14th May was a bit of an anticlimax, in fact to use the words of a dear old aunt I was a little "vexed" at the outcome.

You will of course heard of "The ZL8", probably even worked Barry. Well, although I could hear the 4X4s working him at around 04.30z on Saturday morning on the 13th, I failed to hear him. This I deduced afterwards was probably because I was beaming off his path. (Whether he had been heard before I am not certain due to a problem I had for several days, in connecting to the Cluster). Shortly afterwards I discovered that my link was restored, and after fixing a local problem, I connected, just in time to read that Barry was on the EU DX Net. Thank you Neville, I think it was your report. So a quick QSY and I managed to get on the latter part of the list at 06.10z. I stood by for quite some time, it seemed ages, then Barry reported he needed to close down for 2 hours, and it transpired later that I was next on his list to make a call - at this stage he was a workable 4/3. Some 2½ hours later when the sked resumed, my unfinished list was added on to the end of a 2nd list. I will spare you the details, merely say that conditions became unworkable. This after camping in the shack all night, checking the LF frequencies from time to time, and after spending the previous three days erecting wire verticals for 80m and 40m.

Actually, I had been under pressure the week prior also, the three element 15/20m beam had to have a new clamp plate made and fitted to correct a "cock-eyed" director, and my five element 20m beam had to be cranked down and disassembled (a 34 ft 4 section boom) so that I could lower its anchor point on the mast extension as this had been flexing in the wind! Altogether, quite a problem single handed - fortunately my wife could not see what I was doing, as the shack is well away from the house!

Perhaps I was fortunate in approaching this hectic two week period, as I had only just returned from four weeks in Texas, Arizona and California. In Austin, Texas, we experienced our first "earthquake", 17 floors up whilst having dinner. Then in California, whilst XYL Edna carried on to our son's home near San Jose, I made for the DX Convention in Visalia. This involved a flight from Phoenix AZ, to San Francisco, then back to Visalia.

It was nice to meet up with fellow members G3OZF, G3RZP, and G3XTT. Christine, G3YSR was listed as being registered, but our paths did not cross.

Jim Maxwell W6CF, was much in evidence at the Convention, in welcoming delegates, running a DX Forum, and as MC at the Saturday night Banquet, attended, I believe by some 650 amateurs and friends. I keep suggesting a UK visit to him, hopefully if he does take up the offer, it will be around the time of a future HF Convention. Jim has several very interesting subjects on which to speak, which I have witnessed, when he has chauffeured me to local club meetings.

A Shuttle Bus service was offered the US TOWER Corp., to their nearby plant. An excellent barbecue lunch was provided and it was a remarkable sight seeing hundreds of amateurs and friends sitting at improvised tables erected in the firm's metal stockyard.

The heat from the sun, and the conversational noise...was terrific.

Numerous sections and completed masts were on display. I was impressed with the ample cross section proportions on offer. The mast telescoping gear I found to be quite original, simple but well engineered. All units were operated on a "Pull up & a Pull down" principle. This was particularly interesting to myself because during the recent winter storms I had difficulty in lowering one mast due to the wind causing the sections to bind together. One system had a traditional cable drum, but with only one layer of cable, which was laid on neatly with a lead screw mechanism. The second system did not use a traditional drum, but a loop around a system of VEE pulleys.

It was interesting seeing, and meeting, some of the members of the 3DA0Z (Swaziland), YK0A (Syria), and Conway Reef expeditions, which I had worked. Also the members of the Scarborough Reef DXpedition which had taken place a week earlier whilst we were in the USA.

I did not win anything in the numerous prize draws. Thus, at least, I did not have to worry about importing additional items into the UK! I did bring one half of a matched pair of Eimac 3-500z valves, (for spares) @ \$150 each, so well within the £136 allowed. My wife claimed the remainder, and more!

Hope to see you at the Annual Review Meeting. 73 Bill.

HP/DL8SEP NEW IOTA
UK PacketCluster Network
(Tnx G0CGL)

On receipt of Max's card from NA-072 he states he will be active from a new island in September SAN JOSE ISLAND IOTA NA-????? No more info than that !!!!!

SOLAR SUMMARY FOR APRIL/MAY 1995

Jim Smith, G0OFE

As cautiously predicted in last month's Newsletter, solar activity fell in April and May compared with recent months. The average monthly solar flux for April and May was 77.7 and 75.6 respectively, the figure for May being the lowest yet since the cycle began it's decline. The highest daily value was 95 on the 17th May, and the lowest was 66 on 27/28 May, equal to the lowest daily value recorded during the last solar minimum in 1984-6.

The running 27-day average began the period at 84 units, and fell steadily to 76 units by mid-May, and remained there until the end of the month. The 12-month smoothed mean as at the end of May (and centred on the end of November 94) fell very slightly to 81 units. In 3 out of the last 4 cycles this value has been passed 18 months before the minimum. This continues to point at the minimum being reached during the 2nd quarter of 1996. The exception was the last minimum, when the minimum 'phase' began earlier and was more prolonged than those of Cycles 18-20.

Geomagnetic activity has increased compared with recent months, the running 27-day average began the period at 10 units, but rose to 15 units with five disturbed periods. Three of these lasted several days each. The worst day was April 7th, with an A-index of 49 - the highest since April 1994. At least some of us were able to work some 2m DX via aurora!

IOTA AS-101 KO SAMUI ISLAND
UK PacketCluster Network

It is reported that E28DX will be operational from AS-101 17-18-19 November 1995.

INISHMAAN EU-006 13-19TH MAY 1995

Lee Fuller, GOULN

After our successful expedition to EU-008 (GB0SKY) last year, we were looking for somewhere a little more adventurous. After looking at the IOTA Directory, we came across the ARAN islands. The Aran islands are located about 30 miles off the West coast of Ireland. They are made up of 3 different islands: Inishmor, the largest, Inishmaan and Inis Oirr, the smallest. Inishmaan is only one mile square, with a population of 130 people and is famous for Aran jumpers.

We left the home QTH in Hull around about 1.30am on 13th May after picking everybody up. We had all previously agreed we would only take one bag/rucksack each. But looking at what went in to the van that idea had obviously been scrapped somewhere along the road hi hi.

We sailed from Holyhead at 5.30 am, and after a 2 hour crossing we arrived in Dun Laoghaire, we were met by Declan EI6FR who fortunately directed us out of the main town and put us on the right road to Galway. We arrived at the airstrip in Connemara at about 11 o'clock. Connemara is about a 20 min drive the other side of Galway, right on the West coast.

That's where the fun started, the lady in reception went into a state of panic when she saw all the equipment we had to take across. I did try to explain to her we had already spoken to a girl on the phone and told her the weight of everything, but she wasn't listening. She was too busy running around waving her arms about (headless chicken syndrome comes to mind). She made us unload all the equipment and weigh it, she even made the 5 of us get on the scales. We were just in the weight limit (I felt like saying told you so). She then asked how we were paying for the flight, I explained that was also sorted, but she had lost it totally by now.

The pilot whose name was Paddy, honest! was

an avid SWL. He didn't seem worried by all the equipment and he should be the one who says what stuff goes and what doesn't, he confirmed our suspicions that the girl in reception was just having a bad day. Anyway we got everything in the plane after they removed two seats and off we went, Maurice and Mike were not looking forward to the next bit, they had never flown before, but they seemed to enjoy it.

We were met at the island airstrip by the lady who owned the house. Thankfully she had a Land Rover, so we put what we could in and we had to carry the masts and beam up to the house which thankfully was only a 5 minute walk.

She informed us the house wasn't quite ready as the previous occupiers had only just left and would we mind if she stayed to tidy up for a hour or so - we informed her we would be outside erecting masts etc.

She wasn't too sure what we were up to, but at one point she did ask if we were from the BBC and who were we interviewing and when would it be on TV? We smiled politely and tried to explain.

The house was in a perfect location, no neighbours and only a stone's throw away from the sea. The only problems were the lack of running water and no soil!! The island is solid rock, the only soil on the island has been imported from the main land. The ground is solid limestone rock with lots, and I mean lots, of cracks in the ground, it looked as if there had been a huge earthquake. We managed to get the tri-bander up at about 20ft, and unpacked the IOTA portable station, which consists of a YAESU FT-900 and a lightweight power supply. The radio performed very well. We were all getting tired and decided that we could call CQ and do the rest of the antennas tomorrow.

Steve G00YQ was the first to call, and within 20 mins we had the biggest pile up you could ever wish for from the mid and west coast. I don't know if it was the EJ prefix or the IOTA,

that made it so popular. We eventually called it a night at just after midnight.

The following morning we erected the 18 MHz dipole up about 24 ft and the 80 meter dipole and the G5RV also went up. We worked 20 meters most of the day, in between putting antennas up and going shopping. We had a steady pile up from Europe most of the day. At the end of the first full day we had worked just over 1000 QSOs.

If we had to point out any particular nights for pile ups, it would have to be the Monday and Tuesday nights on 40 meters - it was amazing. We even managed to work VK and ZL including Jim, VK9NS on Norfolk Island. 40 meters was by far the best band.

The Wednesday was a poor day on the radio, so we decided to have a swap around with wires. We made a 160 meter wire dipole, which considering its height off the ground worked well. We also made a dipole for 40 meters. That night the pile up on 40 meters from South and Central America was unbelievable. For the rest of week the conditions stayed good with steady pileups during the day on 20 meters, and huge pileups on 40 and 80 meters during the night.

Unfortunately the Friday soon came around and we had to close down and start thinking about putting everything back in its box. We managed to make 4115 qsos in 109 countries. We are just waiting for the QSL cards to be printed.

We would like to say a special thank to the IOTA Committee for the use of the Yaesu IOTA portable station. Thanks also to:-

G3ZRS Peter, Linear Amp UK.

G3MCS Bill, for the use of the antenna.

G0NVD Jon, for the 80 meter dipole.

City of Humber Bridge Amateur Radio Group (CHB ARG).

EI6FR Declan, and every one else involved.

The QSL info is via the buro to home call, direct to call book address or direct to:

CHB ARG. PO Box 803, Hull,
HU7 4BY, England.

Thanks de Lee G0ULN, Steve G0OYQ, Maurice G0PHN, Mike G7NNT and Stewart.

FIRST P5 OPERATION

ARRL Headquarters, Newington

To all radio amateurs

Martti Laine, OH2BH, announced today (May 16th 1995) from Vladivostok, Russia, that the first authorised Amateur Radio operation took place from North Korea on May 14. They signed P5/OH2AM.

The Finnish business delegation, including OH2BC, OH2BH, and OH0XX, experienced difficulties with Russian border guards while trying to enter North Korea (DPRK). The delegation was held for 26 hours waiting clearance. During that time they activated R0/OH0XX from the border region. Once in the DPRK, they report they were warmly hosted by government and telecom officials. During their 17-hour stay they were part of a series of business activities and their on-the-air time was limited. Some 20 QSOs were made on two occasions (14 MHz SSB and 7 MHz CW).

The group presented four Yaesu HF/VHF transceivers for training purposes, and for actual Amateur Radio activity which is now scheduled for later this year.

The DPRK Telecom delegation will be participating in the first Beijing DX Convention this October. While there, they will observe Amateur Radio in action at BY1PK and will meet with CRSA officials, including IARU Liaison, Mr. Chen Ping, BZ1HAM.

CONWAY REEF DX-PEDITION 1995, 3D2CT, 3D2CU.

Mats Persson, SM7PKK

T31 Trip Cancelled

Nils SM6CAS and I, SM7PKK had in August 1994 started our planning-work for a DXpedition to T31. We had come far in our plans and everything seemed to work out the way we wanted them to do. We had also invited OH1RY and NI6T to join us.

In December we struck major problems though. It seemed that the flight we were supposed to use was going to be abandoned again. We were in almost daily contact with Tarawa concerning this matter. As we had to book our flights ahead of time to go to the Pacific we were getting very worried. Since it was Xmas it was difficult to get any kind of answers. On the 4th of January we got the final word that the flight was not going to be operational when we intended to visit T31. I told both Garry and Pekka about the situation and told them that at this point the DXpedition is off. Nils called me on a daily basis with various crazy ideas. He was determined to get out on a DXpedition even if it only meant going to a place to activate a new island that might not even be qualifying for IOTA. But in the end we saw only 3 options.

1. Cancel the operation and save the money.
2. Charter a yacht to sail to T31 (6 days going 6 days returning)
3. Find a new rare target and work like crazy to organise it so that we could in fact do a DXpedition within the same time frame as originally planned.

Planning for Conway Reef

I had just received some letters from Pekka concerning possible boats that could be used for a trip to Conway. Pekka had kept them in his drawers for almost a year and done

nothing about it but now had sent copies to me for reference. I could barely sleep at night because ideas were flying around in my head. The thing that was occupying my mind was the question "Is it possible to plan and organise a DXpedition to Conway Reef in 2 months?" This question of course brought out all other questions such as landing permit?, licence?, boat?, operators?, funding?, radio equipment?, antenna equipment?, camp-equipment? and so on, it went on and on. Why two months? Well the thing was that Nils was desperate to travel and also we saw that either we do it in March/April or have to wait until October. We wanted to have the best possible propagation towards Europe on the lower bands. On the 8th of January we decided that we should go for it. I didn't tell Pekka or Garry about my ideas at this time as I wanted to make sure I could get hold of the yacht before we started the other tasks. The problem with this yacht was that they had no phone, fax or any way to contact except by sending letters. Their home was located on Vanua Levu far away from any village and phone. I called up my wife's stepsister (Lorraine) in Taveuni and asked if they had access to a fax machine that I could send my fax to and then maybe they could give it to the captain on the regular boat that usually goes between Taveuni and Vanua Levu. Well they would of course help us and I was lucky enough to find out that Lorraine now owned her own fax. I faxed immediately and then I could just wait and see what happened.

On the 11th January I got a phone call from Jytte, (the owner and wife of our captain to be, Arnold). Of course I had not come back from the ham-club meeting at the time but there was a message about a certain number I could call (if I called within half an hour) Luckily I came home in time to call her up. Jytte told me that they had gone over to someone in the village to make a call with the radio-telephone but that they had not been able to get a connection to call outside

of Fiji. They even tried the coastal boat frequencies but with the same bad luck. So in the end they had decided to sail to Taveuni and get in touch with Lorraine. Finally I was able to talk to them in person and explain our situation. I had already drawn up a preliminary schedule for our trip and asked Jytte if they could be available at that time. Well she wasn't sure as a German guy had already chartered the Yacht for a month and he would arrive around the 10th of April. This was of course right in the middle of our schedule as we wanted to spend Easter on Conway to maximise the availability for the DX audience. She was however not sure if and exactly when they would come down as she had not heard the final details from the German guy. She gave me the fax and phone number to the guy and I called him up. Yes they were still going and they would arrive on the 10th of April and stay for a month. I immediately looked at alternative schedules and found that the only way we could do our operation was to move it earlier! Well two weeks doesn't sound too bad but since we already had so short time every day we lost meant we had to rush even more to get everything done. Well Nils was of course on the phone calling me at work all the time to get the last information from me. We had to keep in touch and I needed to verify that we had enough money to put up in advance for whatever was needed for the boat. We had already realised that this DXpedition could not be paid out of our own pockets alone but we also needed lots of sponsors but the primary problem was to be able to pay the boat. If we just had enough money to pay the advance payment for that then we could arrange to get the rest later. Nils said it was OK. Then I called both Pekka and Garry up and told them what Nils and I had been planning.

They were both totally surprised and now found themselves as operators to a Conway Reef DXpedition one week after we had decided to try going there. Well both Pekka and Garry had to confirm that they

could get airline tickets for those dates as well as get time off from work. There were of course thousands of questions to answer before it would happen but we were quite confident that we would find all problems and solve them.

On the 18th January I had finalised the schedule and all had agreed and said it was a go. I sent a fax to "Te-Ni" and they confirmed it was OK. They sailed to Suva (capital of Fiji) the next morning to arrange all the needed radio-licences as well as the landing-permits which we all knew we needed.

Two days later I had written up a press-release which we sent out to sponsors before we announced it to all the bulletins we could find. We needed help desperately and there was only one and a half months left before we would fly out.

I looked through all my paper holders, concerning all materials and to see how the previous Conway Reef and Banaba DXpeditions had been organised and started drawing up all the guidelines for this one. Most things we knew how to take care of it was just a matter of trying to figure out how we would get all the material we needed, and not only that but also how to get it down to Fiji. As our plans had been for T31 all our gear was located in T30 and with the uncertainty of the transports between those two places we concluded that we could not rely on getting all that gear down to Fiji in time. Instead we would have to ask companies in USA mainly to sponsor us as well as buy most part of the gear there at reduced prices. My fax machine was going around the clock as well as the one at Garry's house. We had decided that I should be the Co-ordinator and that meant that I had to make sure everyone knew what he had to know and see to it that things got done and who should do it. It turned out that we in Europe could not be of very much help when it came down to the equipment as that would cost too much in both material and transport so a big burden was on Garry.

Garry was calling all over US trying to find sponsors and help. We waited with our sponsor application to NCDXF as we had to make sure our budget and organisation was well planned before we approached them. We especially wanted to hear from Te-Ni that our landing permit was in hand (well only a verbal permit is given but we needed to hear that first)

On the 28th of Jan. I got a fax from Te-Ni stating that they had obtained the permission to enter Conway and that our licences were also OK.

With this we applied for help at NCDXF and we were all thrilled to see that within 24 hours we had a positive response and they would in fact give us the amount we had asked for. Things were starting to look well for us. Clubs and individuals all over the globe had noted the press release and were happy to help us out. It seems that even if the propagation on the higher bands was to be bad people needed Conway and many were going for the lower bands.

Generators

One by one the items on our lists were crossed out but of course we found more and more to do so it seemed the lists never got any shorter. Garry had been able to get ETO to lend us one Alpha 91B and was very pleased, the only problem was that with it we would need bigger generators. We discussed what to do and in the end we decided to buy a 3.3kW Diesel and then borrow one 3 kW Gasoline and one 2.2 kW gasoline generator. Garry sent me a fax with an idea that we should use the generator onboard the yacht and then pull a long cord on floaters to the island. I said "Hey Garry what do you actually know about Conway?" That would have been a 700m long cable! I told him to call N7NG Wayne and get some more input about the reef. The next day a fax came from Garry saying well it was an idea! Sure it was?! Well I told him why don't we let Club Med station one of their big Cruise liners there so we can sleep onboard

and have a swim in the pool while some nice girls serve us drinks.

The Team is Complete

On the 14th February Jun Tanaka JH4RHF faxed me a letter saying that would be interested in joining us for this trip. Since we had been looking for an additional operator it was very welcome to see him join us. This would mean we had 3 continents represented with the weight still on EU. This was just the way we wanted it. Pekka had some contact in Finland with some good operators but they had to say no as they desperately tried to get time off from their jobs with no luck. Well the time was running short so it was very limited amount of people who would be able to come. With 5 people now in the group we said that this is the team to be.

We continued with our preparations and it actually started to look like we were going to pull it off. On the 2 March we sent out the second press release with our callsigns and further details. People were getting anxious and started to call us asking questions. They wanted to make sure they would be able to work us. It seemed many needed Conway for their very last one. Was it going to happen for them this time?

The Long Journey Begins

On the 11th March 1995 Nils and I flew out from Sweden. We were going to stop in Seattle for a few hours and then continue on to Los Angeles. In Los Angeles KJ6HO Larry and N0AFW Pete were going to meet us at the airport to deliver our Force 12 antennas and a suitcase full of cables and other material that Garry had packed down. I had tried to leave Sweden with very limited amount of baggage so that our overweight from LAX would not be too much. We were very lucky though. In Seattle the girls checked our luggage all the way to Fiji, which meant that we would not need to transfer it ourselves in LAX. We only needed to get our boarding cards in LAX. Well this move was perfect for us. We

arrived at LAX and met Pete and Larry as planned and they handed over our luggage: 1 suitcase and 4 antenna boxes. We were standing in line when a guy told us that we had too many bags and that he just had been told to leave his bike behind as they were very strict on making sure everyone only had two pieces of luggage. (This was due to their normal restrictions and especially since there were many surfers onboard with their surfboards taking space). So we were not going to take any chance. We simply taped the antenna boxes together so they became 2 instead of 4 leaving us with 3 pieces to check in, the total weight being very close to the maximum 30 kilos apiece. The girl behind the counter must have seen what we were up to but didn't say anything. Of course we didn't mention our previous checked luggage and so we ended up having checked in over 200 kilos of equipment without paying anything extra. We were very happy and wondered how lucky we could get. Little did we then know that Murphy would strike back ten fold later on.

We didn't have much time to talk to Larry and Pete as our transfer was a very short one but we were glad to have met them and we would talk more when we got back via LAX.

After a short stop in Honolulu we landed at Nadi on the 13th March after a total travel time of about 30 hours in the air. The first thing Nils did while we were waiting for our luggage was to go and buy a bottle of ABSOLUT Vodka. We couldn't believe we could find one there and it was going to be used as a celebration after the fact.

Murphy Strikes!

Well our luggage almost made it. My tent was gone but what worried us was that the suitcase with all our Coax cable was lost. Since it was one of the pieces we had received in LA while we were very tired we could barely describe the looks of the suitcase and the same went for the contents.

Was it grey, blue, green? marked in any way? We couldn't really tell.

We then came to customs and they didn't want to let us in with all the antennas and radios as we had them in new looking boxes and we had not received our import permits. We left the main part of the equipment there and then hired a car and drove to Suva. Then we went over to the Telecom Authorities and met up with our friends there to get the permits and also the licences which already were paid but not printed out. We talked for about 40 minutes and then came out with all licences and permits needed, all except Jun's licence as they could not figure out his address in all those Japanese signs. We were told to get that address in writing before they could process it but that there was not going to be any delay because of it. Later that day after a well deserved swim in the pool with refreshments we went around town trying to find all the material we needed to buy. On the 14th Garry was going to start his journey towards Fiji. Before he flew he called us up and said that one antenna box was never delivered to us as it had been delayed by the forwarder in US. Pete NOAFW had received it the day after we arrived there and had now shipped it off to us express with air freight. It should show up within a day or two! We could feel Murphy closing in on us. With this information Nils and I made the 3 hour journey back to Nadi to pick our gear up. Well it only took 2 hours there so I guess Nils must have broken the speed record for that road. We paid customs on the antennas to ease our paperwork. It was either that or to have them open all antenna boxes to count every piece including all rivets to mark it down on a list so they could recount it when we left Fiji. This we were not interested in.

We filled the car up and headed back to Suva. when we arrived at the hotel they had delivered my tent but the suitcase was still gone. We took another swim and then headed downtown to do more shopping. We

could find most of the stuff we needed but so far we had not been able to locate any foldable tables as well as air mattresses. Concerning the tables we asked Raj 3D2ER if he knew anyone who could make tables according to our specification without charging an arm and a leg. Well he didn't know about the prices but we were taken to a guy who could make us tables to be delivered after the weekend. We told him what we wanted and he calculated. We redesigned and he calculated. In the end he came up with that we would have to pay 80 US\$ per table with foldable legs. We needed 4. We decided to buy them even though it was a high price. Stable foldable tables can not be found in Fiji. We found cheap ones that would never stand for an amplifier.

On the 15th Jun left Japan and both he and Garry arrived the next day. Now only Pekka and his girlfriend were missing and they had just started their journey from Finland.

The four of us continued to assemble all the stuff and finally they had found our suitcase with the coax cables and delivered it to our hotel. This to our big relief as coax is very scarce in Fiji and we needed some 300 meters of it. We also received our last pieces of antenna equipment as well as the amplifier and other gear that Garry had decided to ship instead of bring on the plane. Garry was getting more and more interested in the food-department and finally we assigned him to be our cook. He was going to do all the food shopping and later on cooking. Well I was glad because I don't like to cook but I told Garry that it has to be easy cooked food and that our basic food must be ready-made cans and also noodles. Garry wanted to make real Chinese meals and so on and went shopping for tools to do that. Well I left him to do that and kept my idea with canned food as the last resort.

On the 18th March we got a fax from Pekka saying that Qantas had just cancelled his flight so he would be arriving one day later. Since we had planned to leave early (on the 21st) this was not good news. We decided

however that whatever happened with Pekka he would have to agree on leaving on the 21st even if it meant they would transfer straight from the plane. We needed the extra day as a spare since the weather had been rainy and windy since Jun and Garry had arrived.

Pekka and Taina did arrive on the 20th and we met up with them around 2000. We told them we would leave the next day as soon as we could. It was OK with them and we went to the hotel and discussed all the details that we still had to take care of. After having a few drinks we went to bed and slept. The last night in a smooth bed with none interrupted sleep. I guess though that none of us did sleep really well anyway since we knew the big task still ahead of us. Were the pessimists going to conquer with their bad propagation predictions and saying - how can they go to Conway at this time of the sun cycle? Well my idea for DXing is that DXing can be done at all times of the cycle and we can't just go and hide when the cycle is down and work radio only at the peaks. Why not have fun all the time!?

Murphy Beaten Again

Early on the 21st we were up and started to ship all the gear down to the boat. Nils and Jun were going to take care of the fuelling up. Pekka and I were going to buy all the drinks and what was left of the food. Garry was also going to do some last minute shopping. We met up at noon and had one last lunch before packing the rest of the stuff. Then Murphy struck with full force again. We had been so busy that no-one had tested the two borrowed generators. The small 2 kW one was totally stuck and obviously had something broken inside. The 3 kW gasoline one didn't start. Nils had seen the latter one working though at the rental place. He took both of the over to the rental place again and he easily fixed the big one. The 2 kW was a bigger problem though and one guy was appointed to make sure it was repaired within 3 hours. Nils was watching

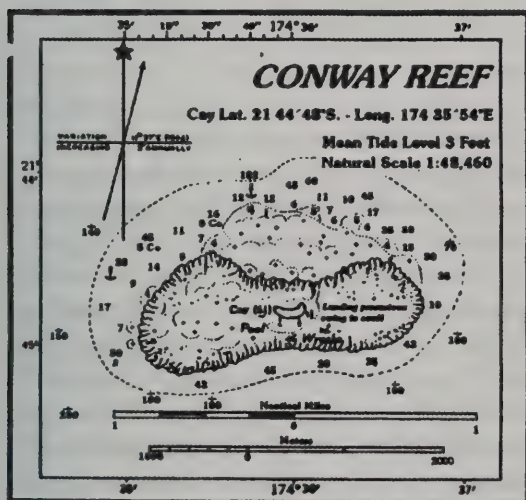
as this guy totally took the generator in pieces. It was all over the ground and a valve was stuck. He came back and told us the problem and we waited anxiously. At around 1700 Nils came back with the generator and a big smile. It was working. once again we had conquered Murphy.

Under Way at Last!

At 1730 we took up the anchor and were on our way. Finally. We were all happy to be under way. Amazingly the weather was changing and as we sailed out of the harbour we were leaving the rain behind us. We were not sure if anyone would get seasick and could only hope and keep taking those pills. Especially Nils, Garry and Jun kept out of sight and stayed in their bunks for the whole trip with short stops on deck. I never saw anyone throwing up though so I guess we were OK. The most notable thing was Jun. He could stay away almost all the time and we never saw him eat on the trip down. He was just sleeping like he was in a trance.

First Landing

On the 24th we finally saw Conway. We spotted the Cay at around 0730 and motored slowly towards it.



At around 0900 we had dropped the anchor. We lowered the dinghy and decided that Pekka and I should go first with some water

jugs. Pekka was driving the dinghy and I was up front making sure we were not hitting any coral heads. We both thought the waves were a little bit high but after about 20 minutes we thought we had found a good entry point. We couldn't see any waves breaking so we went for it. After maybe 40 minutes we finally reached the island and I jumped ashore. It was a big thrill to see the island after almost 5 years. I can't describe it but all the intense memories from the last trip came back. The island had changed though and looked smaller than last time. We walked around the island and saw that huge waves had been breaking all over the Cay. Then island was smaller but had at the same time changed shape a bit. No coconut trees had survived and less than half of the bushes seen last time were left. A very large number of bids nesting indicated that the island had been safe enough for them to settle though. We called back to the boat and told them what we saw. They of course wanted to come ashore as well. We went back out and filled up with more stuff. Mainly water and antennas. The idea was to get some people ashore with antennas and tents to start building the camp.

This time Pekka decided to stay ashore and that I should bring Jun out to the island. Said and done I took over the dinghy and headed out. I continued the same route as we had taken before but noted that the opening in the breakers seemed to have moved so we went maybe 50 meters to the side of where we had entered before. There was no problem though and we came through the reef without problem. The dinghy was heavily loaded with gear such as the tents and more water. Jun was happy to be ashore and started to work immediately on one of the C3 antennas. Pekka had already finished building one. They were very easy to build as they had rivets and all holes were drilled so it was virtually impossible to put anything wrong. This was very good as the antenna has many elements compared to a regular tribander.

Disaster Strikes

I went out again to the yacht. This time I was going to get Taina on to the shore as she was not doing any job on the boat anyway. She got in the dinghy and we filled up the dinghy with all Pekka's gear (radio, amp, clothes). I did not know but she also brought their tickets, passports and money, things that are not needed on the reef. The rest of the space was filled with the cooking stove and gas tank. My clothes and power supply were in as well. It didn't seem to be a lot of stuff at the time but the boat was probably a little heavier than the time I brought Jun out. The boat was fully manoeuvrable though. We headed in, the waves were coming the same pattern as they had the last time, so I went in at the same place. I kept one eye backwards to look for any breaking waves but nothing was coming our way. Then suddenly I saw one huge wave coming behind us. There was no way I was going to get out of its way as it was way wider than any previous waves I had seen. We managed to get over that wave even though it was breaking but I saw another one even bigger right behind it. I thought to myself that there is no way we are going to ride that one as well - it was too big. I powered up to try to motor away from it but it was already too late. (The 15 hp engine was too big for the dinghy and if I was to go at full speed the dinghy would have dug itself down to the point of sinking.) I just felt how the wave lifted us up and we fell backwards out on the right side of the dinghy. I tried my best to shove myself away from the dinghy at that point as I saw the engine upside down with the propeller about 1 meter away from my head, still running. The wave broke for what seemed like a very long time and I finally got up to the surface. I could feel a coral head sticking up right beneath my legs. I was away from the dinghy and several waves kept breaking right on top of us. I don't know how but both Taina I managed to get back to the dinghy and kept holding on to it. More waves came breaking

in and at one point I wasn't sure what to do. I swam away from the dinghy trying to get hold of stuff I saw floating around in the water. I got hold of the gas tank but realised that there was no way I could save any thing more. I saw the suitcases and boxes floating away towards the really bigger breakers further downstream. Then I saw that Taina didn't have any life vest on. So far all of us had a life vest on so I had not reflected over that she didn't have any on. I got back to the dinghy which was upside down and the engine was long gone. Taina who was very scared at that time did everything she could to get on top of the dinghy. I was not sure what to do but I remember thinking that maybe I should give her the life vest. I decided not to because I figured that (without knowing her at all) I probably would be able to swim longer than her in the water and in case she would get tired I would have to drag her along with me and that it would be easier with the life vest on me. She kept climbing onto the dinghy though. Taina started to call for help but there was no way anyone would hear us as we had breaking waves around us making too much noise. Somehow we floated out towards the yacht slowly and the waves stopped breaking over us. I started to push the dinghy and told Taina to do the same.

Rescued

What I didn't know at the time was that Nils had gone up on deck (they were down eating lunch) because he felt something was wrong. He looked around and saw us in the breakers with things floating in the water. The yacht was about 3 - 400 meters outside the reef so we were quite small in their eyes. He called out to Arnold (the captain) who immediately put his small dinghy in the water and powered out to us. It took maybe 10 -15 minutes before he was out to us and as soon as we had seen him in the dinghy we started to paddle to wards him and the yacht even faster. Arnold finally reached us but experienced as he is didn't get too close. We

would never have been able to enter his dinghy without turning it over. He told us to stand on one side of the dinghy and try and lift and push at the same time, to get the dinghy over on the right side. After numerous tries we finally got it over and started to bail it out with the funnels that somehow had gotten stuck inside the boat. we bailed and bailed but since Taina was too afraid she kept holding on hard and weighed the dinghy down too much so with every wave we got more water in than we could bail out. I told her to swim and hold on at the same time. I was doing the same on the other side. Arnold motored away, keeping an eye on us, to try to rescue some gear. he actually managed to salvage numerous stuff that was floating around.

Finally Taina and I reached the Yacht and we went along side it. Taina was very tired and tried to cling on to the anchor line then climb up but since the boat was rolling I told her to get away from it and stay with me and the dinghy. She swam over to my side to stay away from being crushed between the dinghy and the Yacht and we awaited the people on board trying to get the ladder out and fasten it on the side. Taina tried to climb up but was so tired I had to give her a real push to get her up. Then I climbed up and just fell down on deck. I don't know if I was more afraid or more angry over what had happened. Luckily for us no sharks had shown up and the water was warm enough not to chill us down. Garry was already busy opening up Nils' suitcase which had been salvaged. It contained his power supply as well as amplifier tubes and clothing. We couldn't believe that it had kept afloat with that heavy power supply. Garry took it apart in I don't know how many pieces and then dipped it in a bucket of fresh water a few times. After that we left it to sun dry and to our amazement we actually got it to work. (Without it we would not have had any power supplies left.)

Pekka and Jun on the reef had not seen any of this. From the island you can barely see

that someone is on a dinghy out by the reef, so there is no chance of telling what is going on out there.

Try Again

We onboard discussed what we should do and Nils was already having ideas of abandoning the whole thing. I couldn't think like that already. OK we had turned one dinghy over and I would not like to go through that again. I sat on deck for many hours looking out on the reef and especially the waves. The VHF radio's batteries had gone down so we could not tell Pekka and Jun what had happened. At about 1430 I decided that we must try again. I had found another hole in the reef, far away from where we had tried before. Arnold said that it looked like a good spot and that made up my mind. Since I wasn't sure if Nils or Garry would and could drive the dinghy I myself was going to try. I would not take anyone along though and bring very limited amount of supplies. I went with the same aluminium dinghy as last time but this time we only had the 1.5 hp engine on it. The other one lost. It took forever to get anywhere and after 2 or 3 attempts I got to a spot where waves from two directions seemed to destroy each other's pattern and that meant that barely any waves showed up. I went through the reef and finally got in to the island. Pekka came running wondering why it took so long time. I told him that happened and that we had lost his IC-735, his brand new homebrew 1kW transistor amplifier incl. power supply 50V, 50A, tickets, clothing, passport, money and so on. He was not too happy about it of course. I told him also that from now on he was to be the dinghy driver. I had given up. Pekka was going to go out and get Taina and motored out. He was inside the reef when something happened and he started to row back again. After almost half an hour fighting against the current he reached the reef again. The sprint that makes the propeller go round had broken in two pieces and we had to replace it. We found something to replace it with and off he went.

This time he had better luck and he returned with Taina. Then he said he would go and get Garry and more stuff.

More Problems

Remembering what had happened to me before I kept a lookout every now and then to see if he was coming. Finally I saw two heads in a dinghy and they looked OK. The time went and they didn't get in so I kept looking. Suddenly I see only one head in a dinghy and assumed they had turned around for some reason. This time no one came in either and it was getting too late for anyone to come in so I figured they would stay onboard. I told Jun and Taina that we would be us three on the island.

What I didn't know then was that Pekka and Garry had turned over and that I had seen Arnold coming out to rescue them also. Luckily the engine had stayed on the dinghy so we still had an engine but they had to take it apart and clean it before they could use it again.

Since I had come in to the island without anything except my tent I was in for a cold night. I had only my wet clothes, nothing to change into. What made it worse was that inside my tent the only thing I had was a tarp that I was going to use for rain protection for the tent. This tarp was the only thing I could cover myself with during the night. I think that maybe I slept about 2 hours that night, the rest I was freezing and shaking like mad. I couldn't wait for the sun to get back up again so the heat could come. Finally the sun came and I was up with the first rays, continuing to build antennas. We didn't have much to eat as food was on the list that should have been brought in with Pekka.

Give Up?

On this day the 25th Pekka managed to get back to the island at around noon. He had brought food and with his arrival we had declared this DXpedition to be over and now

we were on a rescue mission. We rationed all the food and water and figured we had enough for 6 days. We had lunch and then discussed how we should get people off the island. It was quite clear that we were going to wait until the waves settled down even if it meant waiting up to 6 days. I kept looking at the waves and after two hours I told the rest what I thought. If this is a rescue operation then we have to start taking people off the island soon. With this Jun and I got ready to leave and so we did. We came safely out to the yacht and this through breaking waves. After our arrival Nils of all people was cooking noodles for us in the galley. I couldn't believe it but he had gotten sealegs! Jun and I ate like mad. The little food we had eaten the last 24 hours was barely nothing. After that I went on deck again and looked for holes in the breakers. I wasn't sure we could go in to get any more off the island. We didn't make any more trips that day so we named Pekka the King of Conway who appropriately had his queen on the island as well.

It's on Again!

We couldn't get out to the island until about 1300 on the 26th. By that time my spirits were much higher and even if Nils thought we still should abandon the idea. I had spent the night thinking. So who cares if we can't make a good performance as planned. Even with one barefoot station on the reef we would be active. I couldn't really give up and just say we go home. After all we could not reclaim any money for the tickets and we would still pay very much for the boat so why not stay by the reef and wait until the waves die completely! Well at around 1300 both Arnold and I said it seemed OK. We packed the dinghy and I went again. When I came out to the small breaker there where I found that there would be no problem at all to bring anything ashore. Pekka was surprised to see me bring more radio-gear out as we were supposed to leave. I told him we couldn't just give up and that we must

get one station on! He agreed and I went to get Jun. After I had gotten Jun out we brought one generator and just before sunset we put 3D2CT on the air for the first time.

Pile Ups!!

We had dinner and made up shifts for the night. Pekka first then me then Jun. It was a thrill. The pileups were huge and because of the contest there was lots of QRM.

The next day 27th March I made many dinghy rides and I learned better to read the patterns of the waves. Besides I had found on very good position to enter the reef that seemed to be open both at high tide and low tide. I brought out Garry and finally the last ride Nils was going to join me. He was a bit reserved but we got safely through the reef and he was happy to finally get on the air and feel the pileups. By now we had been able to get station number two up and running CW as well.

28th March we finished the assembly of the WARC-beam. I had been busy doing dinghy rides and Nils and Garry was supposed to set the WARC-beam up but nothing happened so after a few rides I got angry and told them to get their thumbs out and do something. I don't know why they were so lazy but I guess it must have been due to the heat and the fact that they had been on the boat so long and that they now felt they could relax. Well unfortunately relaxing is way down the list on a DXpedition.

Unexpected Guests

This same day at around 1300 We looked out towards our yacht and found a huge patrol boat. It seemed that our verbal landing permit was going to be put at a test. After about 30 minutes we saw that a dinghy was leaving Te-Ni heading towards us. They landed and we greeted them when they arrived. They wanted to know more about what we did and they took some photos of us and our equipment. We did the same of them. They had no clue that we would be

there they said. After about 1 hour they went back out to the patrol boat again. They didn't seem to mind that we were here so I guess that they had found the papers in order. We assume they did call back to Suva in the night to find out that it was OK for us to be there.

29th The next morning the crew on the patrol boat came in for unofficial business as they were dressed in whatever they had. They walked around the whole reef collecting shells and clams which they later opened and rinsed. It was supposed to be a delicacy but I didn't try it.

Salvage

In my free time I decided to go snorkelling with Arnold. The sea was very calm at noon and we thought that maybe we could find some of the lost equipment. especially the 15 hp engine we had lost. Since that one must have gone straight down it should not be too difficult to find. I was driving the dinghy while Arnold was standing up front looking down in the water. The water is so clear that it was possible to see at least 5m straight down to see the bottom. I don't know how it happened but I actually steered the boat straight to the spot where we had been turned over. We could see the engine and Arnold dropped the anchor. I went in first and looked around. Yes the engine was there all right, about 3 meters down. Right next to the anchor I saw the ABSOLUT Vodka bottle. Still intact!!!! After salvaging the engine I went for the bottle and got it out from the coral it was stuck in. We couldn't believe it was still OK. Next we found Pekka's aluminium suitcase which contained his amplifier and switched power supply aswell as his IBM laptop. Last Arnold found Jun's NCDXF T-shirt. Jun was overwhelmingly happy when he got that one back and immediately washed it in fresh water and hung it to dry. Pekka started to wash his gear off and was quite confident that he should be able to rescue some of the parts in the amplifier.

On the 30th, the Navy was still at the reef and they came out once again dressed unofficially and started to play rugby on the coral sand. They were running around like crazy. Finally someone of them came over and asked if they could borrow our shovel. They were going to raise the flagpole up again. It was put there in 1992 and was blown over by the last hurricane that struck Conway.

A Storm Breaks

During the night between 30- 31 a big squall hit our camp. I had told everyone what to do if a squall came as they can be very dangerous. The people who were operating had to stop and run out and cover the whole radio camp with the huge tarp we had brought for the occasion. And since a squall always bring heavy rain it is important to get the tarp up before the wind get too strong. I had come off my shift and was of course very sleepy. After about 5 minutes the wind was so strong and my tent almost coming down. I was wondering if Nils and Garry had done as I told them or what if not. I ran out and found both Nils and Garry sitting in their respective tent doing nothing. Well Garry was drying up the Alpha with a towel. I told him to get his ass out of the tent and help with the tarp or he would not have any amplifier to dry off in a few minutes. I told Nils the same and we all rushed out and were barely able to get the tarp up because of the wind. The rain kept up for about two and a half hours and we had to dry out a lot of water before we could start the radios again.

When the first morning light came up I saw that the WARC beam had fallen down in the winds. Later we got it back up as it was. We called it the WARC-special after that as one of the elements was bent in a strange way up over the antenna. I saw Pekka crawl out of the tent and he said there was about 5 cm of water on the floor inside and he concluded that it was a very good and waterproof tent at least on the bottom?!" Everything was

wet and we had to put everything in the sun to dry it up. I decided that we should try to get the third station up and since we had no power supply we could go portable out by the generator and connect that one directly to the battery on the generator. I took the Alpha paper box, a chair and Nils' radio and went out to the generator. I sat down about 5 meters away from it and started working US and JA on 24/18 MHz. I got instant pileups even though I was running barefoot. After a while Nils and Garry came out to me and started to build a shelter around me. They took some wooden poles and some blankets and actually made a roof over me so I could get out of the sun. After about 400 QSOs we decided to move the Diesel generator next to the operating tent and set this station up in the dining area outside the tents. Said and done. Finally we had three stations up and running. With this we were able to cover EU SSB, EU CW, and US/JA-Lowband/RTTY. The only problem we encountered was that we could not keep the third station running 24 hours a day but it was still better to work it as much as we were able to. Of course the noise from the generator was much louder but you tend to block it out after a while. Nils was surprised to find that to be a fact as well as we had some problems with his wife and daughter being a bit too sensitive to that noise on Banaba last year.

Sometime after sunset after catching a few sharks the Fiji Navy left the reef.

Time to Go

On the 3rd of April at 1421 local time we made our last QSO. KH6WU was to be the final QSO with our 3D2CT station. Before this we had already made up a plan on how to dismantle the stations and actually brought all unneeded material the day before. I was appointed dinghy driver as previously and Jun was to be first man on the Yacht to help the captain. Nils, Pekka and Garry were supposed to take down the rest of the camp. Well everyone was going

to take his own tent down as well as packing all his personal stuff immediately in the morning so I could bring it on the morning rides. We kept one station running as long as we could as it still was Sunday in USA at this time. Things were going as planned except that Garry suddenly decided to go fishing. I saw that and told him off. Either he was making QSOs or taking down the stations - there was no time for fooling around as it takes long time to dismantle such a big station as we had now built up. 3 stations, about 12 antennas, 4 tables. 3 amplifiers, 2 generators, all the cooking gear, fuel jugs, water jugs and all the other 150 items that we had on the list. Garry couldn't quite see the point of why he shouldn't go fishing which I thought was a bit strange.

At about 1400 local I brought Garry out and then one hour later Nils followed, leaving only Pekka and some last details left on Conway. At about 1700 local I took Pekka out to the boat and we left Conway even cleaner than when we arrived. Captain Arnold was a bit hurried as he had to get the anchor up before the sun went too low. The anchor could get stuck in the coral and if that happened we would have to wait until the next day. Luckily this didn't happen and at 1800 local we were sailing towards Suva. We all celebrated with the ABSOLUT vodka which we had now aged as a better wine on the bottom of the sea.

Our spirits were again high as we had beaten Murphy even if he had done his utmost to make things go wrong for us. 30,000 QSOs in the log and about 21 - 23 % Europe among the QSOs. On the 5th of April we saw the first glimpse of the Viti Levu, the main island, just before sunset. But we were so far away from Suva that we had to spend the whole day on the 6th to sail East to finally arrive at Suva Harbour just when the sun was setting at 1800. Immediately we went up to our hotel and had our first shower since we left the hotel and also the first shave. Finally we were going to live like

humans again. We had already decided that the first real meal was going to be a Pizza!

The two next days we spent repackaging things so we could store it. Some in Fiji and other things to be shipped home. This part of a DXpedition can be very dull as everyone wants to get home and are very tired after such an intense experience. However the work must be done and it ain't over till it's over. On the 10th of April we arranged a dinner meeting with some of the local hams. 3D2JO, 3D2ER, 3D2AG and 3D2CM were our guests and we had a fun meeting and were finally able to conclude that our DXpedition was a successful one.

Nils and I flew home on the 12th. We met up with N0AFW and KJ6HO again in Los Angeles and they saw us off even though our plane to Seattle had been delayed almost two hours.

On the 15th April we arrived home more than a month after we left Sweden.

We can only say it was possible even with such a short time to plan a trip to Conway. However it cost a lot of money and my phone bill alone for this trip is about 1500 US\$. More than 150 FAXes have been sent and at least as many received. The final sum of this DXpedition is not yet calculated but it is well over the estimated 17000\$ we had calculated due to various factors.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the sponsors and individuals who helped make this DXpedition a success. All are mentioned on The QSL cards.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The following are e-mail addresses for CDXC members. I will add these to the next issue of the membership list.

G3PMR alanj@pires.co.uk
G3XMZ clive@g3xmz.demon.co.uk
G4DBN g4dbn@cix.compulink.co.uk
G4OWT steve@g4owt.demon.co.uk.

Would others please let me have their e-mail addresses for publication.

A HOLIDAY EXPEDITION TO THE ISLAND OF MYKONOS, GREECE

Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH

Mykonos is one of the Cyclades Islands located in the Aegean Sea at approx. Lat 37.50N Long 25.20E, and thus counts for IOTA purposes as EU-067. It is one of the most picturesque places on the planet and has been the setting for many films, including most recently 'Shirley Valentine'.

My wife, Jan and I have been taking holidays on the island since 1980, when our children were very small, and this year made our 14th visit. The children no longer come with us, being almost 19 and 21, though they would dearly love to if Mum and Dad would pay!

The island is relatively unknown, as none of the major and very few of the smaller package tour operators go there. There is a very free and easy, extremely cosmopolitan atmosphere. One thing that I particularly like is that the proportion of Brits is quite small, although there are plenty of English speakers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and (of course) the USA, as well as visitors from the rest of Europe. It is not unusual for an impromptu party to collect at the beach bar comprising about 8 or more different nationalities. There is also a very strong 'gay' community who, apart from being very lively, colourful and quite outrageous, cause no offence and bother no-one but themselves.

When we first started to visit, the only way was to get a night charter flight from Gatwick or Luton airports to Athens, and then take an early morning ferry from Piraeus, which took about 7 hours and called at Syros and Tinos islands en route. The outgoing journey took a total of something like 16 hours and the return journey took about 22 hours, so you really had to want to go!

In later years, it was possible to take a short, Olympic Airways 'domestic' flight from Athens to the island, but these flights were prone to cancellation at short notice due to bad weather, which gave potential problems in catching the Athens/London flight home.

It has only been relatively recently possible to get a direct flight from Gatwick to the island, using Boeing 737 aircraft. The runway is quite short, and the aircraft has to get onto the ground in about the first five yards, or go round again! It is a tribute to the pilots skill that I have never seen them do so. I believe that Keith G3VKW has made the flight on several occasions, but I don't think I've ever been a passenger on one of them. Keith tells me that that it is in his terms a 'tricky' airfield when the wind blows in a certain direction down the valley close to the runway threshold as this can cause 'marked turbulence shortly before landing'.

As a consequence of the short runway, it is not possible for the 737 to carry sufficient fuel on the outward flight to return to London without refuelling, which means about an hour's stop-over in Athens on the return journey to top up the tanks.

Athens has got to be one of my most (un)favourite cities. I think that Miles Kington was absolutely right when he wrote 'Most Greeks are the most helpful and friendly people in the world. The rest have gone to Athens to take up taxi driving'.

It had often crossed my mind that it would be interesting to take some radio to Mykonos, as Greek Island expeditions by other amateurs always seem to attract lots of interest, although they are more often from either Crete (SV9) or the Dodecanese Islands (SV5), which enjoy separate country status from mainland Greece.

I am told that the island group is not that rare from the IOTA point of view and I have even seen reported a couple of earlier operations from the island, including one last

year by Taizo GW0RTA, but these have only been on SSB. I have only ever made one CW QSO with EU-067 myself, which was in August 1983, and I never did get a QSL card for that, so I felt that this year a CW only effort would be interesting, and may give a few of the Deserving a new IOTA, WAFOCC country, WAFOC band slot, Windle Point or even a DXCC band slot.

When I mentioned my embryonic plans to Jan, they were greeted with less than

enthusiasm, but a long way short of downright rejection, merely something along the lines of 'You must be mad!'. I proceeded with my preparations in the certain knowledge that I wasn't going to provoke a showdown over the issue and spoil our holiday. As it turned out, I made Jan a promise that whatever time I spent playing radio would not affect our time together. I kept that promise and we both had one of the best holidays on Mykonos that we can remember.



Phil at the operating position in Mykonos

ATU, SWR bridge, Vibroplex and headphones in the hold baggage and took advice from Roger G3SXW and from Phil G4OBK about the best way of transporting a heavy HF radio on a charter flight. They both told me to carry the rig as hand baggage and to try to pretend that it wasn't heavy! This proved a lot easier than it sounds, as the check-in desk staff at both Gatwick and Mykonos airports just weren't

I tried to arrange to borrow the new rig which Yaesu had donated to the IOTA programme, but it was in use the week before and the dates which I wanted it for clashed. I tried to borrow several other lightweight rigs, but there always seemed to be problems in that they didn't have mains power supplies and/or CW filters, so I made the decision to take my ancient Yaesu FT-101ZD, which weighs in at about 19 KG.

I made up some lightweight, wire dipole antennas for 40, 30, 20 and 17 metres fed from a common coaxial feeder, packed the

interested in hand luggage. I was also expecting the X-ray machine to light up and say 'tilt' when the radio went through it, but again the Security staff at both ends weren't interested, even though I wheeled a baggage trolley loaded with the rig through the magnetic loop at Gatwick.

The apartment which we had booked for this year was new to us, and was a bit up market

from what we were used to. We had discovered it last year whilst exploring the island. It turned out to be a superb radio QTH, as it was some 600 plus feet above sea level on one of the highest points of the island with a clear take off over water to the south, east and west. The take off to the north was less satisfactory, but the land was flat.

Our actual room was on the first (top) floor and I quickly established that the radio would be best sited on the table on the west facing balcony outside, and although this meant that I would have to set up and dismantle the radio at the start and end of each operating session, this actually took less than five minutes to achieve.

After carefully asking for permission from the Greek owners, I found a convenient method of rigging the centre of the dipoles at about 6 metres above the ground and spread out the legs of the dipoles to form inverted vee type antennas with as open an angle as I could achieve. I think that I was on the air within about 5 hours of arriving on the island, and that included general unpacking, and visiting the beach!

Thus, very tentative CQ at 1542 UTC on 23rd May on about 14025 kHz brought an immediate call from SM3AJW, followed straight away by G3RVM and then by my old partner in crime from our 1991 joint visit to Uzbekistan, G3LZK.

I settled down with a large vodka and tonic and spent a very pleasant hour and a half or so running a modest, mainly European pile up on 20 and 30 metres, when it was time to get ready and go out for dinner and enjoy the rest of the evening.

It was always my intention to get on the air for the odd half hour or more, as and when I could and the very satisfactory pattern emerged of an operating session in the late afternoon, whilst watching one of the spectacular Mykonos sunsets from the

balcony together with an 'early morning' session (0700 to 0900 UTC) whilst waiting for Jan to catch up on her sleep after what were usually very late nights sampling the nightlife of the town. (For some unknown reason, I was never hung over, despite revelling equally, if not more so.)

Conditions were particularly bad and I noted when I got back that the SFI reported on the Cluster for the week never got above 70, being around 67 for most of the time. For this reason, most activity was on 30 metres, which tends to be my favourite band anyway. Surprisingly, 20 metres produced very little activity, and it was not unknown to call CQ for five minutes without getting a reply.

I operated on this basis for a total of just over 12 hours during the course of the week, and made 741 QSOs, mostly with Europeans, but with a respectable number of JA's and only 2 W's, mainly due to the poor band conditions and the times of day when I was able to be active.

The band breakdown is as follows:

40 metres	73 QSOs	25 DXCC countries
30 metres	432 QSOs	41 DXCC countries
20 metres	124 QSOs	28 DXCC countries
<u>17 metres</u>	<u>112 QSOs</u>	<u>29 DXCC countries</u>
Total	741 QSOs	52 DXCC countries

Special QSL cards are in the process of being printed and will be available either via the RSGB bureau or direct from my home address, which is QTHR in any call book since 1970.

I would like to record my particular thanks to my wife, Jan for her tolerance and understanding in what could have easily been a disaster, and to Paris and Maya Panayoyopoulos, the owners of the Geranium Apartments in Mykonos for their help in making this holiday operation a success

DXING, THE HARD WAY

John Eaton, G3EZZ

Is it ever easy? At least there must be an easier way. With the last Newsletter came a note *'Tell us how you got 5BCCC WARC Endorsement No. 1 without a mega-station'*.

The simple answer is that I *claimed* it, but guess there are others who have also achieved it, too. Yes, the station is modest - I have never used a beam and do not at present have any antenna masts. The rig is an Icom 735 which replaced the Yaesu FR/FL 101 twins six years ago, and over the last three years I have occasionally used a small linear which gives 350 watts at a push, and periodically blows its protective fuses. There is no Cluster, packet or computer assistance but I do rely on DXNS (Tnx, Bren and GL es 73 to Chris).

Over the years, my operating periods have been broken due to moving, work or other reasons, with breaks of from six months to 14 years so I will relate to the last period of nine years at this QTH. I have only occasionally had to rely on cards from the previous periods.

I have just been reading an article by K5FUV, the DXCC Manager, which starts off "Let's face it. There's one common thread that holds all active amateur radio operators together - antennas. If you don't have one you won't be talking to anyone, at least not on your radio". We all know the importance of what's at the end of the cable from the rig and, generally, the bigger the better. As I said earlier, I have never used a beam; in fact I don't want one and its associated tower in my 36 ft square back garden in an urban environment.

"Well, you will never work DX, then" they say.... When I set up station here nine years ago, which is 32 ft. asl and 250 yards west from the North Sea and screened by buildings in that direction, I had dipoles for several bands with a common feed point at the apex of the house (8m high) all in an

inverted vee configuration, both vertically and horizontally to fit in the space. They did not work too well as the vee was too acute, and once corrected things changed, but 20m was still disappointing. In the past, I have used indoor dipoles with some success, and tried different ones again, but without any significant improvement. The roof space in this house is 36 feet long running in an east/west direction, but only half of it is accessible, the other half is taken up with two insurmountable water tanks. In an attempt to improve 20m performance I cut and trimmed a folded dipole from 300 ohm ribbon, pinned one half to the ridge beam and the inaccessible area was spanned with bean sticks and the other half of the antenna taped to it, and only a foot above the water tank. "It'll never work DX" they said...., and how wrong they have been. It has been fantastic for what it is. It has worked 295 countries, gained WAITUZ on 20m, with 73 of the 75 zones, and CCC., but don't ask me how it works! "Surely you can't watch TV with that set-up"....no TV!!

Regarding the other bands, the 80m dipole was mediocre with half of it wrapped round the house and a bent loading piece at the other end. The seagulls tended to find it a hazard to their flying activities, so after a while I didn't replace it, which left a 40m dipole tripling to 15m, and since 1989, a 30m and 17m dipole. For 12m, I tuned the lot through an ATU and this has produced 136 countries from intermittent operating on that band. I tried the same system on 80m and it works as well as the seagull trap did, and 10m is by the same means.

"How can anyone work DX with a set-up like that?".... A long time ago I learned that when operating modestly, then the best way is to mainly use the CW mode coupled with the 'SLAP' method - (Search, Listen And Pounce) and not bother unduly about calling CQ. I see that G4BUE recommends the same principle in operating QRP and it pays off, and the 'listen' bit is the essence of any success, particularly to the 'second' layer of

signals.

I am not really a certificate hunter except for DXCC (313 all time, 301 current list), and those that are sponsored by the RSGB. When Fred, G4BWP took over as RSGB Awards Manager he produced sheets of notes for their certificates, which was most useful, and I looked to see how I would fare.

CCC presented no difficulty. I was six short on 80m for 5BCCC but luck played its part over the winter months with J6, J7, J8, C6A, VK6, VR2, and V3, and six cards came quickly. I needed a little longer to complete the WARC endorsement.

It has given me considerable pleasure to get onto the Honour Roll for IOTA - such an excellent geographically orientated programme, and so popular now that when any island appears on 14260 the ensuing pandemonium is now somewhat a discouraging aspect of success. It seems a pity that more use of CW is not seen from island operators.

"To do this, he must spend all day on the air" No, I don't like operating for long periods in any case, and 90 minutes is about the maximum at a session. I have found the period before breakfast, and a short period in the evening the most productive, and I may have a quick listen at other times - I do have many other things to do. In fact, that brilliant solo operation by G3SXW from ZD9 produced more QSOs for him in three weeks than I have had in ten years! It did give me three WARC and two other points towards CCC.

Yes, there must be easier ways and I admit to being a sinner - I envy those big antennas and I'm jealous of the results they achieve, but even if I missed out on 3Y0PI despite trying, I enjoy the challenge and it gives me a kick to work a DX station in a pile-up, and that is what it's all about at the end of the day. If it's fun coupled with a bit of skilful effort, why worry?

CQ WPX QRP ENTRY 1995

Steve Muster, G4UOL

Firstly, may I say how much I enjoy being a member of CDXC. The Newsletter is an excellent read. I have been spurred on to write this piece by Chris, G4BUE, who wrote in the May issue on QRP contesting.

As some of you may know, I operate each November as GD4UOL and most of the strategies that Chris mentioned I have to use with 100w in the CQWW, due to all the QRO boys! Who says QRP is 5w? Perhaps that's why the phrase QRPP is used?

At the end of May I operated in the WPX contest from home. I live in a flat, so I am limited to a certain degree. However, I do have access to a very large loft area. Yes, you guessed right - I have full size G5RV up there. I only use QRP of 5w, but still make plenty of contacts, and sometimes break the odd pile up.

At present I use my brother's (GIUOL) notebook PC, which is noisy to say the least, causing S7-9 hash on some bands, which does not make operating ideal. However, I now find that to seriously enter a contest without one is like operating without those trusted headphones. I am hoping to get a quiet notebook very soon.

So finally, about the contest. I spent all the time searching and pouncing, and about 99% of those called came back after one or two shouts. There was of course an IK8 station who was 30dB over on 40m who called CQ and never seemed to work anyone - I needed that IK8 prefix!

I spent 34 hours on the air and worked 601 QSOs, and 286 prefixes in 51 countries. I scored 276,276 points, which is the best score to date, since putting up the antenna.

So, I hope you have found this short piece of interest. If this is what QRP can do at sunspot minimum, I wonder what the maximum will be like. If only I'd tried in the late eighties!

73 from G4UOL

RSGB HF AWARDS NEWS

Fred Handscombe, G4BWP

An additional two countries have joined IARU Region One, making a total of 76 member countries. EU (Belarus ex- UC) and YL (Latvia) should be added to the list in 1995 RSGB Callbook (or full list from G4BWP for SAE).

The following awards have been issued up to 31 March 1995.

IARU Region One Award

Class 1 (for all countries on current list)

G3EZZ	CW
G0ARF	RTTY
DL3JVCW	

Class 2 (for 45 countries from the list)

GI0KVQ	Mixed & SSB
DL-20064	Mixed
DL3BZZ	CW
G0KRL	Mixed
FS4PL	Mixed
G8BQX	SSB, All 50 MHz
(QRP)	
DL2KUZ	CW
G0MTN	Mixed

Class 3 (for 30 countries from the list)

G0TYV	CW
G1EHJSSB,	All 50 MHz - 1st
Award	
LU1FBK	SSB 28 MHz
OE8GNK	SSB
DL9FCD	Mixed
F-10997/91	SSB
KC4PMS	SSB 28 MHz
G0OED	SSB QRP
DE1SUA	Mixed
G0IOX	Data-modes
DL2VIC	Mixed
DL7UKT	CW QRP
DE3HJM	Mixed
DL4MDU	Mixed

DE5HTH	Mixed
EA1APA	CW
BV5CM	SSB
PT2CJ	CW
DL5GCH	SSB
JA9BLD	SSB
BV5DR	SSB

Commonwealth Century Club

Standard (100 call areas)

G3EZZ	CW
G0ARF	RTTY (First RTTY)

5-Band Class 4 (200 call areas)

G3EZZ	CW
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*5-Band WARC Endorsement
Class 4 (150 call areas)*

G3EZZ	CW	(first WARC award)
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DXLCA (SWL DXCC)

	Country Stickers
ONL-7681	225,250,260,270,280
UA9-154-101	150,175
OZ-DR2044	250,260,270

Worked ITU Zones

Standard (70 zones)

EA2AOM

28 MHz Counties Award

*Standard (40 counties)
and 60 County sticker*

CT3FT

ON6TT QRV FROM D2

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Peter Casier, ON6TT has advised that he will be QRV as D2TT from 7th July until 31st August, inclusive.

THE CDXC AWARDS PROGRAMME

***Ron Glaisher, G6LX
Awards Vice-President***

The CDXC awards fall into two categories, those based on meritorious service to amateur radio, and those awarded for achievement in competition and/or contests. All awards are made at the discretion of the Committee.

In the first category are the CDXC wall plaques presented for outstanding work on behalf of the CDXC or HF amateur radio fraternity. Typically such awards go to the organisers and/or operators of those DXpeditions that the Committee consider are especially meritorious.

The awards for competitive achievement include the Penallt Trophy (the memorial to Allan Phillips, GW0BIC), which is awarded for LF band operation, the CQ WW awards, and the CDXC Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy for the IOTA Contest.

Following presentation of the Penallt Trophy to the CDXC in 1990, there has been some confusion over the rules for the award. These difficulties have now been resolved, and the revised rules were published in a recent edition of the CDXC Newsletter. The first competition for the Penallt Trophy under the revised rules will be during a seven day period in the months of December 1995 and January 1996. The award is only made to fully paid up members of CDXC.

In the past there have been two wall plaques awarded to the UK amateurs who were the leaders in the Single Operator categories of the CQWW SSB and CQWW CW contests. In recent years, plaques have been awarded to the winners on a rather haphazard basis, sometimes to the Low Power section winner and sometimes to the High Power section winner. To overcome this difficulty, the Committee has decided to make four awards

to the leading UK single operator stations in both the low power and high power categories of the SSB and CW contests. It should be noted that according to the rules for the award of these plaques, the winner does not have to be a member of CDXC.

The CDXC Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy is presented to the entrant in the RSGB IOTA Contest, whether single operator or multi-operator group, in the IOTA Islands Station Section (non-DXpedition Sub-section), with the overall highest checked score, regardless of mode.

ONE-WAY QSOs

Roger Western, G3SXW

Recent correspondence with a DXer in USA might be of interest to readers. It relates to attempts at a QSO on 160 metres from ZD9SXW and raises some interesting points. Some similar situations also arose when others requested QSLs for contacts that were not in the log, all from USA and all for 160 metre events. But this correspondence does summarise some of the issues quite well.

"Dear Roger

Some of our club members were discussing DXing and QSLing recently. I had always treated a QSO as incomplete if the RSTs are not successfully exchanged. Surprised when the others said no signal reports are required for the ARRL DXCC program. Sure enough, they were right, a signal report is not required to complete a QSO. I reviewed all the rules but couldn't find any reference to signal reports.

DXCC Rule 4:

'Confirmation data for two-way communications (i.e. contacts) must include the call signs of both stations, the country, mode and date, time and frequency band.'

I'm hoping our "QSO" of 12 Oct. 1993 on 160m can be regarded as valid. At 0225Z I copied your CQ and responded with my call. You called me, started the transmission and promptly went into a deep, extended fade that lasted so long our contact was broken. Per Rule 4 we did exchange call signs and the other info - country, mode, date, time and band are obvious.

I hope you agree that our QSO was complete enough for QSLing. If not I'll be in there again during your next expedition to ZD9. If in fact signal reports are not required why all the fuss about exchanging RSTs with DXpeditions? Particularly if everyone is given a 599 whether they are readable or not. I'd appreciate your comments. Tnx, 73 & Happy Hunting."

"Dear *****

Many thanks for your QSL and enclosure. I'm delighted to respond with a ZD9SXW card for 12 and 10 metres. DXCC rule 4 is one of several reasons why I nearly always send my call-sign at every contact even in a big pile-up, in case those claiming DXCC want to stick to the rule: 'must include the call-signs of both stations'. This is the rule that is most commonly ignored these days and a far bigger issue than swapping RST.

Actually DXCC does not control DXing. It is a major issue with a lot of players but I, like so many, have my own set of ethics. That's the beauty of DXing, we all have our own ways and nobody is right or wrong. My personal definition of a QSO is that the two stations are communicating with each other. Each one hearing the other at some point in time is good for swapping SWL cards but not sufficient to confirm a TWO-way contact. You hear me and call. I hear you calling me and start responding with a report at the moment when you stop transmitting. But if I hear nothing from you when I stop transmitting then the contact has not been completed and we have to do it again, which I would always try at least 2-3 times. As the content of a QSO is so standard

(callsigns/RST) it mostly becomes a matter of timing. If you start calling again while I am transmitting (heard through my QSK) or if there is a pause of more than a few moments when I stop then you are clearly not hearing me well enough to be communicating two-way at that time.

As to RST, I do still feel that swapping reports is part of the contact, no matter the DXCC rules. But I agree that 5NN is so standard these days that it has lost much of its value. Nonetheless I want to give a report and hear one being given back to me with the right timing so as to satisfy myself that we are communicating. It's seldom the content of the signal report that counts for much but the fact of it being transmitted at the right moment that confirms a two-way contact.

In the case of the 160 metre session to which you refer (which, not surprisingly, I don't recall) we didn't complete the contact. In fact that night I do recall the frustration of being continuously called by various USA stations who were clearly not hearing me. When replying to them several times over they just kept calling blindly. One or two of them then started giving out a RST in a ghost contact. I had no evidence that they were hearing me at all. When their QSLs arrived with loud protestations I'm afraid I still did not confirm.

Life would be a lot simpler if I just caved in and confirmed to everyone who requested but that would debase DXing, which I love. I'm sure you would agree, as would all those other stations who really did make good two-way contacts. Another solution is to avoid using 160 metres - this whole issue, in my experience, is exclusive to that band.

The fact that you felt the need to write and persuade me to confirm that 160 metre contact, instead of simply sending a QSL card, suggests that you knew the contact was at best marginal. Therefore I very much hope that you'll not be too surprised or disappointed at my being unable to confirm. But it has been a worthwhile debate so thank you for raising the issues. Best 73 and good DX."

DXAC RULE CHANGE

UK PacketCluster Network

I was intrigued by the recent DXAC recommendation on minimum size conditions for new countries but not surprised. There seemed to be a period a few years ago when their intentions were to increase the numbers of DXCC countries - the minimum separation rule spawned some new ones. Since then it appears that the DXAC has worked hard to effectively freeze the current country list against any change (except political reorganisation).

Personally I believe the latest change is timed to ensure that Scarborough Reef does not qualify, though time will tell if I'm right or wrong. I can understand the reluctance to add it to the list, anyone who has seen the photographs from the first operation should realise that it is not a country and not like anything else that is called a DXCC country. But the inescapable fact is that it does exist and is more than the required distance from the parent country. Moreover there are no intervening rocks, real or imaginary, between it and the mainland unlike Pratas. In the latter case DXAC must have been relieved by the finding of such rocks.

Inescapable is not quite the right word. DXAC have manufactured an escape by virtue of rule changes. The requirement that new countries must support human habitation seems poorly thought-out. Certainly this requirement is very far from those expectations (formal or informal) used in the past. Many current DXCC countries do not meet such a standard: Clipperton, Navassa, South Georgia, Antarctica, etc. All these places are not self-sustaining.

DXing is only a hobby, but I grow concerned at this trend. Any activity (business or hobby) that resists change ultimately seems to die. I really wish we could collectively be more open-minded, flexible, and accommodating to growth. This

latest addition to the rules will resist change in the future. I don't doubt that the DXAC had the integrity of the DXCC program in mind when they approved this change but I believe it will be its integrity that will suffer in the long run. 73 de Eric, G0CGL.

CLARIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF TUNG SHA ISLAND (PRATAS)

Ed: This is a translation into English by Shane Tang, BV2FA of a document contained in a letter dated February 28, 1995 from the Land Administration of the Ministry of Interior of The Republic of China on Taiwan. The translation has been faxed by CTARL to ARRL.

Tung Sha Island, located at 20°42'N, 116°43'E, is in the northern portion of the South China Sea, 240 miles from Taiwan, in between having no protruding rocks above sea level.

As an important junction of world shipping, the island has been frequented by the Chinese people travelling to and from South East Asian countries ever since Emperor Chin (who built the Great Wall) unified China. History clearly records the island as Chinese territory.

In 1907, during the Manchu dynasty, a Japanese party landed on the island and laid claim to it. The Chinese government managed to recover sovereignty by paying 130,000 yuan through negotiations.

In 1925, our government established a weather observatory on the island, and later on, added a lighthouse to facilitate shipping. In 1927, a Chinese Naval detachment was assigned to the island.

During World War II the island was occupied by the Japanese military and what little infrastructure was left there had been destroyed by the Allied Force.

In 1946 our Navy took over the island, restored the weather station, and, in the following year, set up an administrative office. In February 1990, the island came under the jurisdiction of the city of Kaoshiung (BV7 land).

The above serves to prove that Tung Sha island has been Chinese territory for several hundred years and has been administered accordingly since the founding of the Republic of China (in 1911).

In 1949 the Chinese Communists overran the Mainland, forcing the nationalist government to relocate in Taiwan. China has thus split into two political entities. Nevertheless, Tung Sha island remains an integral part of the R.O.C with a garrison force stationed there.

CDXC QSL CARDS

Ian Shepherd, G4LJF

Over 60,000 CDXC QSL cards have been sold so far. The printers in Hong Kong have just used the last batch of 30,000. They print 30,000 "blanks" at a time then overprint your Call Sign, address etc. to order.

Several changes of manager have taken place at the print shop, as the lucky ones are emigrating before the Chinese take over. The new manager has reviewed the cost of printing our cards, and I am afraid that he has imposed some hefty price increases, especially on the embossed gold cards. The new prices, including delivery etc. are now:

2000 cards £110.00
3000 cards £125.00
5000 cards £165.00

These are for your call sign in black or pale gold. For embossed gold add £15.00 per 1000 cards.

For those not familiar with the Club card, they are in full colour, and to a very high

standard. If you would like to see a sample, send an S.A.S.E. to:

Ian Shepherd G4LJF
Hutts Farm
Blagrove Lane
Wokingham
Berks RG41 4AX

I am sorry that we are faced with this increase. However the cards are still very good value compared to what you would pay in the UK. Repeat orders should be £30.00 cheaper, as the artwork and plates are already done

I would be grateful to know how many of you would consider reordering, as I have to let the printer know whether to run another 30,000 blanks or not. Please drop me a message on the cluster.



Ed: The above monochrome picture gives a general idea of the card, but obtain a full colour glossy sample from Ian to see the full effect. These cards often attract comments from DX stations. I have a card from a C6 who believes the building in the picture is the CDXC Club House, and has the QSL displayed at his own club!!

QSL HELP NEEDED

Alex Hamilton, G10TJJ, would like to know whether anyone has received QSLs for any of the following stations:

ED1ONS (via EA1MC), Ons Island
EU-080, 31/07/94
RU6LC/0 (via UA6LU), Sredniy Island
AS-042, 04/03/94
UA0KBZ/0, Vise Island AS-055, 27/05/94

A LIGHT HEARTED LOOK AT DXING

Ed: There follows 3 pages of fun, as a break from the serious side of DXing. I hope you like it!

VIRTUAL SIGNAL PROCESSOR

A Product Review by Jack Fleming, WA0RJY

The New Virtual Signal Processor (VSP) (available exclusively from the Virtual Contact Company, a subsidiary of D. Miller Enterprises) will open new vistas of amateur radio for you. This device - with its patented *ultra-quiet-signal detector* - can pull signals out of the ether that are totally inaudible to the human ear! Your DSP will be junk box bound once you have your VSP.

The VSP is a compact device (3" x 2" x 2") that fits between your headphone jack and a comm. port on your computer. If you don't have a comm. port available, use a printer port, or a mouse socket. Just be sure it's plugged in to your computer somewhere. The VSP's patented *device recognition system* (DRS) will find where the VSP is attached and make adjustments to the necessary parts of the system. The DRS's motto is "Any port in a storm!". The VSP has only two cables - one a phono plug for your headphone jack, and the other a universal plug for your computer. It has no knobs, dials, switches, or attachments to get in your way. A software program, *Virtual Contact*, controls this powerful unit, and a starter 10 pack of QSLs is included with your VSP delivery.

When matched up with a VSP equipped rig at the other end, amazing communications are possible. The Virtual Contact Company is currently sponsoring *virtual stations* in all CQ zones (which monitor frequencies 25kHz above band edges on a 24 hour basis). They also will be sending VSP equipped *virtual DXpeditions* to some of the rarest locations around the world.

Here's an example of a typical QSO, when VSPs are used at both ends of the transmission, and the *Virtual Contact* computer program is running on both machines:

When you know that a virtual DXpedition is at a needed location, for instance The Anadaman Islands, just fire up the VSP and tune to the correct frequency on your rig. You might hear a pile up on that frequency of thousands of non-VSP stations. Or, more likely, you will hear nothing but static hiss. Don't let either situation worry you! If there is a pile up, then the VSP will allow you to bypass it. If you hear nothing, it just means that propagation is not present to support the traditional audio methods. This won't stop your VSP, though! Answer the simple questions that appear on your computer screen:

What station are you calling?
VU7VSP
Frequency?
1.825
Mode?
SSB

The VSP will automatically capture the time and date from your computer. Send your call sign and a signal report using the mode you specified - then just sit back and wait a few seconds for the always welcome words "Good Contact" to appear on your screen. If you hear the DXpedition answering other stations while your VSP QSO is taking place, and not mentioning your call sign, don't worry. The VSP can operate at sub-audible level while the other contacts occur.

Once you have the "Good Contact" go-ahead, the program will ask if you want a QSL generated and remind you of the expense (approximately \$10 each). Remember, you can only generate 10 QSLs with each VSP QSL pack! If you answer "YES" then a confirmation letter will automatically print on your printer (with a special QSL pack serial number of the contact, between 1 and 10). Mail this letter to the Virtual Contact Company off-shore processing office, (in the sunny, tax-free and extradition-immune Bahamas), and within a month a beautiful multi-coloured QSL (showing full colour photographs of the virtual operators at the other end) will be returned to you confirming the contact. No need for SASEs, IRCs, "Green Stamps", QSL Managers, or any other expenses and hindrances to your QSL quest!

Remember! Many times you will not be able to actually hear the DXpedition's signal! In fact the frequency may sound totally dead! But due to the revolutionary *ultra-quiet-detection* circuitry, the VSP units will be able to pick out the other signal like it was just across town - even on "Top Band" at local noon for contacts near the antipode! And remember this feature works for all bands and modes from 1.8MHz up to the gigaHertz range! You can use anything from an HT with a "rubber ducky" to a full kilowatt and stacked Yagis. Any station works equally well because the *ultra-quiet-detection* circuitry is incredibly powerful! It really puts you on an equal footing with the "big guns"

Get your 160m WAZ in a weekend! (Note: 4 VSP QSL packs are required for the 40 contacts to confirm WAZ). The cost of a VSP unit is \$100.00 with a 10-pack of QSLs. Additional QSL-packs are available for \$100.00 per pack of 12.

Ed: The above article is reproduced from the SCDXC Bulletin, April 1995, who in turn took it from the April 1995 WDXC Totem Tabloid.

ROMEO, ROMEO....

NORTH KOREA

P7BS2

☐ DON JAHN STYLUSBUCKED
Box P7BS2
Just Outside North Korea

☐ JULET REBORNED
Box P7BS2
Outside Of North Korea

COMPASSING PRIVATE CNO 10TH		DATE		UTC	INR	RST	MODE S-SW
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR			

☐ THE QSL & GREENSTAMPS

QSL DIRECT ONLY, VIA KUMHAI

ZONE 24

Romeo, Romeo, wherefore ART thou, Romeo? (with apologies to William Shakespeare)

DXGLUE

Ed: The following item is reproduced from the SCDXC Bulletin, April 1995. Those wishing to try DXGlue should contact Don Beattie, G3OZF, who has a small supply!

Announcing....

A New Product For The DX'er: DX GLUE™

Are the 'rare ones' slipping through your fingers?
Frustrated because you think you've done all you can do?

"It's exactly what I use, except without the sheep's bladder." ...EA3OT

♦ Just look at these scores*:
With DX Glue™: Without DX Glue™:

XF4M 28,485,621	W**Q/7/5R8 2,128
P47P 112,286,424	SP***Y/ZA 1,101
3Y0Y 646,128,221	W6***/SA 9
1S1SP 78,346,616	WB**DR/VE3 22

"For greatest DX performance, apply DX GLUE™ to all elements. To enhance Long-Path, apply to underside of elements. Sprinkle with DX-TALC™ to enhance backscatter propagation."

The DX GLUE™ recipe was developed during the summer months of 1981. At that time, the inventor made top of the honor roll, five-band WAZ and won both the CQ and ARRL World-wide DX Contests. The collection agency returned his car, his hair grew back and his girl friend dumped the guy she left him for. The IRS cancelled his audit, the city approved 120 feet and the county lost his property tax file.

Don't delay.... Call now!

CONTACT CEMENTERPRISES
(A division of Sticky Systems)
CALL: 800 I DX GLUE

*Figures from DX News, 75 Meter QSO's and Forces 12 column.

Contributed by N6HL and KJ6Y

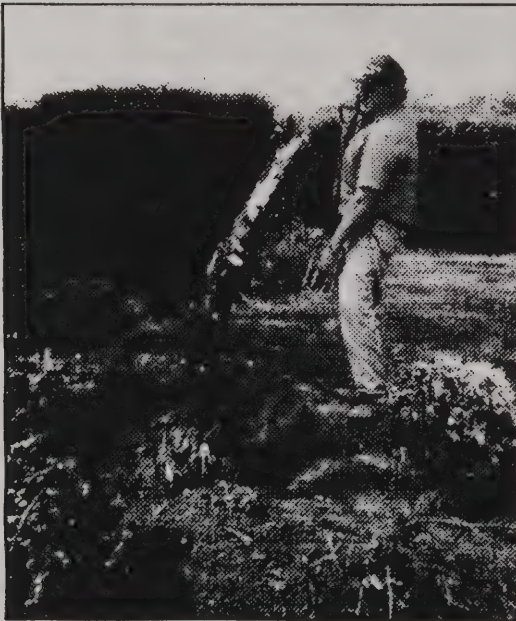
CAPTION COMPETITION

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Below you will find a photograph of our esteemed Chairman, Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, in a most uncharacteristic position (according to Trish, Neville's XYL)- i.e. not playing radio. What's more, Neville is trying hard to give the impression that he's working!

I would like to invite members to submit captions for this photo, and will be happy to present a bottle of wine to the most witty caption received by July 30th, at address on the front cover. To start you off, here is Trish's offering:

"A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do - BUT ONLY when he's finished in the garden!"



The results of the Caption Competition will be published in the September Newsletter.

EUROPEAN HEAVEN AND HELL

Anon

In Europe, **Heaven** is when:

Mechanics are	Swiss
Lovers are	Italian
Policemen are	British
Soldiers are	German
Chefs are	French

whereas **Hell** is when

Mechanics are	French
Lovers are	Swiss
Policemen are	German
Soldiers are	Italian
Chefs are	British

With apologies to all nationalities concerned!

GREAT VICTORY IN THE EAST, MAY THE GODS BE PRAISED

Roger Balister, C in C island forces, greets elders of the IOTA Council and has immense pleasure in reporting total victory over the barbarians in the east. Victor Victorovich, his commander on the Russian front, has this day sent news that his forces swept all before them in a trial of strength in fair combat with a force from the DXCC. Great bravery was shown and no quarter was given in the IOTA team's thrashing of the DXCC team by the creditable score of 4-0 on the football field of Lipetsk. The day belonged to IOTA. Magnanimity was shown by our forces' agreement to a rematch in twelve months time when it was hoped that the C in C would be present to lead his forces into battle afresh. Victor Victorovich reported that equipment had been sent to the north to strengthen the performance of our forces there. Great is the news.

THE GB7YDX DX CONVENTION YORK, MAY 1995

Steve Wilson, G3VMW

It seemed like a good idea at the time! "Why don't we have a mini-DX Convention for the GB7YDX faithful instead of just a boring AGM?" "Mmmm....Why not?" was the general reaction.

In 1993, a committee was formed to support our local PacketCluster node GB7YDX since it had become a way of life for many northern DXers. People simply just couldn't contemplate what DXing and contesting would be like without the PacketCluster system. Little did Ian G4LJF realise what he was starting when he opened GB7DXI in 1990.

The Yorkshire Cluster Support Group (YCSG) held the first GB7YDX DX Convention in 1994 at the Post House Hotel in York. We were amazed at the level of support from the DX community and the number of people who turned up on the day. Flushed with the success of the 1994 event (even though we actually made a loss!) we decided to repeat the event in 1995.

Frantic talk messages went back and forth on the cluster between G4DBN & G3VMW as various 'victims' were suggested as speakers for the event. Our list complete, we consulted the other members of the YCSG Committee and got at least as many suggestions again for suitable speakers. We decided to use the Post House in York again for the 1995 event, given that York has some appeal as a tourist centre. DXers could bring their wives and families safe in the knowledge that York has plenty of shops and tourist attractions.

One or two notables went quite pale at our suggestion of leaving the cheque book and credit card with their XYLs to do some shopping whilst they enjoyed the convention. I

don't want to say who this was because it wouldn't be fair on GW3YDX and G4UJS!

Finally, we managed to put our programme together for the DX Convention which was held on May 13th. There was a fair amount of criticism in 1994 because we managed to clash with the date of the F.A. Cup Final. However, we managed to avoid the Cup Final in 1995 and so some fairly intense activity went on as we distributed the DX Convention programmes with the YCSG Newsletter.

Unfortunately, we didn't completely avoid a clash of dates, as some of our group (G0OYQ, G0PHN & G0ULN) were on a DXpedition to the Aran Islands (IOTA EU-006) that weekend. I understand that the guys made a video during their trip which may be suitable for showing at next year's YDX Convention - word has it that a few 'bleeps' in the soundtrack may be necessary for the squeamish!

1995 GB7YDX DX Convention Programme:

How to Win VHF Contests - Bob Harrison, G4UJS Northern Lights Contest Group

The GB5WW Contest Site - John Dunnington, G3LZQ East Yorkshire Contest Group

SHACKLOG & the IOTA Awards Manager - Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Multi-Multi on an African Rooftop - Roger Western, G3SXW 9G5AA Contest Group

We were lucky to offer a fair amount of variety with our speakers this year and we deliberately tried to add a VHF 'flavour' somewhere into the proceedings. There are lots of VHF DXers on the PacketCluster and although I am an HF DXer, there is no doubt that VHF DXing is far from being a trivial pastime.

Bob Harrison, G4UJS of the Northern Lights VHF Contest Group gave a most entertaining insight into how to win VHF Contests. I've been involved in putting up a fair amount of

aluminium in the air on contest weekends, but Bob's VHF group are in a different league as far as antennas go. Can you imagine a 4m beam with a 48ft boom? The Northern Lights Group have won a lot of VHF contests, and after seeing Bob's humorous presentation, I really do now understand why.

Unlimited acreage, big towers, a coastal site and serious antennas was the theme of G3LZQ's presentation. The East Yorkshire Contest Group are assembling an impressive contest station at the Aldbrough QTH of G0NAA. You will often hear the guys in the CQ WPX, WW and 160m contests as GB5WW (I wonder how many people get GB5WW and GB6WW mixed up?) John gave us a good feel for building a big contest and DX station. Coastal sites have some advantages but those gales and the salt-laden spray off the North Sea sure have conspired to give the GB5WW team a few headaches.

At the DX Forum at the Dayton Hamfest this year they carried out a straw poll to see how many of the assembled audience were on the DXCC Honor Roll. Around 50-60% of those in the room stood up. DXCC may be running out of steam to some degree given the number of DXers now approaching the top of Honor Roll. How many CDXC members are now on the Honor Roll? A controversial theme at Dayton was the BS7H DXpedition and the new DXCC rules which define the minimum size of a 'country'. There is a move to define DXCC countries 'entities' or 'counters'. Perhaps we already have the logical alternative to DXCC in the IOTA Award? There are a lot of islands to hunt and clearly the IOTA award is gaining rapidly in popularity.

Alan Jubb, G3PMR gave us an excellent presentation showing how he dovetailed an IOTA Awards Manager into his 'SHACKLOG' station logging software. PC logging is becoming almost a de facto standard in the modern DXer's station. SHACKLOG plus the IOTA Awards Manager make a powerful combination.

Finally, after a short break for an excellent buffet and a chance to stretch our legs, G3SXW gave us a glimpse into how the 9G5AA team managed to win the Multi-Multi section of the CQWW Contest from Ghana. This was an impressive effort and the all-FOC, multi-national team of G3SXW, GM3YTS, KC7V, N7BG & K7GE were superb. Most of us were able to work 9G5AA on at least one band. Roger's account of how they set up the contest station in the Novotel Hotel in Accra was most entertaining. They found out how quickly a 240v 10A circuit breaker can operate when four Alpha linear amplifiers fire up simultaneously from the same room and on the same mains circuit. It looked HOT in that room Roger! We were lucky that G3SXW had managed to borrow some excellent slides taken by Mike Fulcher, KC7V showing the antenna set up, the station and the 'après-contest' socialising with the 9G crowd.

Much of the serious business at DX Conventions goes on in the bar after the presentations and so it was at York this year. The 160m contingent huddled together discussing beverages and elevated radials (Oh, and amplifiers). The VHF DXers concentrated on a discussion about 'sprites' which was way above my head (I thought sprites were a mean variety of ghost?) The testers enjoyed winding each other up whilst giving nothing away in the process - but just wait until next year! DXers remind me of fishermen, with tales about the one that got away (BS7H was the main topic of discussion).

Around thirty people sat down in the hotel restaurant for an informal 'DX Dinner' and then it was back to the bar for more swapping of notes, more experiences and some good DX information. The discussions went on into the small hours with many electing to stay the night at the Post House.

We shall be organising another YDX Convention in 1996, but most likely at a different venue to the Post House although still in York. We would love to see some CDXC members up there next year and you will be assured of a big welcome.

GM DX GROUP

The GM DX Group was formed just over two years ago, and currently has almost 100 members. The aims of the group are broadly similar to those of CDXC, with financial support of DXpeditions being one of the priorities. The group has supported the 3Y0PI and 9G5AA expeditions. In addition, members are encouraged to participate in the DXCC programme. A Newsletter *GMDX Digest* is produced four times per year.

The GM DX Group is a checkpoint for the awards issued by CQ Magazine, i.e. WAZ, CQDX Award, and WPX.

Meetings of DX interest are held two or three times per year and so far talks have been given by VK9NS on A51 and Willis Island, G3WGV on VK9MM, G3SXW on ZD9SXW, ON6TT on 3Y0PI and, most recently, GM0GAV on activities from VP8GAV. The last meeting had a record 44 members attending.

All of the GM Honor Roll members belong to the GMDX Group, including Christine GM4YMM, the UK's only YL Honor Roll member. Membership is open to all DX interested amateurs, and is not confined to GMs.

The GM DX Group seeks dialogue and liaison with other DX Clubs and is happy to welcome any CDXC members to their meetings, which are publicised in DXNS, and via PacketCluster.

The Secretary of the GMDX Group is CDXC member Rob, GM3YTS, from whom details of future meetings can be obtained.

Ed: The GMDX Group should not be seen as a competitor to CDXC. Rather, its activities should be seen as complementary to those of CDXC, with the common goal of fostering HF DX activity in the United Kingdom. Indeed, the GMDX Group features amongst its members many CDXC members, and those are not only GMs.

BEIJING 1995 INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION

The first Beijing International DX Convention, which is being organised by The Chinese Radio Sports Association, will take place from 13th-16th October, 1995.

The venue will be the China Resources four star hotel, located about 30km from Beijing Airport, and 10km from Beijing city centre.

The Convention will commence with an evening dinner on 13th, and will be followed by one day of DX meetings, and then a day of visits, which will include a visit to The Great Wall, followed by an evening DX Dinner. The Convention will finish with a Farewell Breakfast on 16th October.

Total cost of Convention and accommodation \$US360 for a single room, and US\$285 per person for a twin room.

Ed: If you fancy going to this convention, I have copies of the registration form. Send me a SASE for a copy.

LÅNGÖREN ISLAND

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

I had a letter from Folke, OH6NVT, whom I worked in the 1994 IOTA Contest from Långören Island, which he claimed, at that time, to be in EU-101. Folke says that the IOTA Committee have said that Långören Island does not, in fact, count for EU-101, due to it being in a "largely enclosed bay". Folke admits that it was his mistake, in that he should have checked the island with the IOTA Committee beforehand. The mistake seems to have been made due to a simple mis-understanding of the rules on Folke's part.

In the 1995 IOTA Contest, Folke plans to operate from Tornskär Island, which Roger, G3KMA, has confirmed to Folke *does* count for EU-101. Call sign will either be OH6NVT/P or OH6AG/P, which is the call sign of Folke's Club station.

A QSL PRIMER

Paul Kidd KK6H/A35RK

Ed: This was sent to me by Clive G3XMZ. Whilst written from a US perspective, much of what is said is general.

"What to do if you don't know nothin' about QSLing"

This is not the only way to handle QSLing, but it works for me, both as a "supplicant" and as a "manager." Your "mission" is to provide the DX station and/or his manager with a QSL submission that's easy to handle and contains all essential QSL information in a readable and orderly manner. Here's how....

First, assemble your "tools":

1. Current issue of both "North American" and "International" callbooks. ****Current issues!****

2. The latest edition of the "GOLIST"

(PO Box 2306, Paducah, KY 42002-2306....502-898-8863)

3. Your QSL card -specifications to follow.

4. 2 different sizes of AIRMAIL envelopes

a) #10 business size (4 1/8 x 9 1/2),
Eaton Paper 32-635-10

b) "Executive" size (3 7/8 x 7 1/2),
Eaton Paper 32-634-10

One fits inside the other, without folding

5. Postage stamps, both domestic and International Airmail

6. International Reply Coupons (IRC)

7. Typewriter or fine point black ink pen

8. A supply of "crisp" \$1.00 bills ("Greenstamps")

9. If you plan to send alot of cards, 2 "rubber stamps" with your *complete* address (including zip code and *country*)

a) one small, 1 x 1 3/4 inch

b) one large, 1 x 3 inch

"Your" QSL card specifications:

1. It must be "standard size", 3 1/2 x 5 1/2 inch.

2. Your callsign must appear *in big bold letters*. No "cute" type fonts, holograms, "laser" colors, or psychedelic extravaganzas - just *plain clean english*.

3. QSL information must be on *the same side* of card as your callsign.

4. Forget about "fancy" cards, with emblems, club names, logos, and other forms of clutter. The idea is to make your call prominent, and the QSL data orderly and legible. W4MPY "\$30/1000" cards are just fine.

Fill out your card:

1. Type or *print* in black ink - *legibility* is the goal.

2. Be sure to use "UTC" date and time -double check it!

3. If handwritten, one QSO per card; if you use "labels", 3 is OK.

Get the DX station's or his manager's address from:

1. Current callbook

2. GOLIST

3. DX PacketCluster "Show/QSL" database (*Ed and from SH/DX callsign if it's a recent QSO - this often turns up the QSL route*)

4. Information nets, like INDEXA (14.236, 2330Z, daily)

5. Listings in DX Magazine, DX Bulletin, QST, CQ, Worldradio, etc.

6. Other "successful" DXers, including those on the DX Reflector (HI).

Address the "Outer" (#10) envelope:

1. Your full return address in upper left corner, including *country*.
2. PRINT or type DX or manager's address legibly.
3. Attach sufficient postage.
4. *Do not use an amateur radio callsign anywhere on this envelope!* It may attract "thieves". Try and make it look as innocuous and "business-like" as possible.
5. If all you know about the DX op is his first name, call him "Mr." example: "Mr Abdul, PO BOX etc.". Not "A.R.S. A45XX".
6. Be sure that the Country name is the very last line, all by itself.

Address the "Inner" (Executive size) return envelope:

1. If you are "positive" of the DX address, put it in the upper left corner of the envelope. If you aren't, leave it blank.
2. Type, use your large rubber stamp, or *print* "your" address on the envelope, leaving plenty of room for stamps.
3. Be sure that your country name is the very last line, all by itself.
4. On the back of the envelope, at top-center, write:
 - a) your callsign
 - b) the UTC date/time of the QSO
 - c) the band/mode of the QSO

"Stuff" the return envelope:

1. Insert your QSL card...check "one last time" to be sure that the QSO information is correct.
2. Insert "sufficient funds" to cover return *airmail* postage, which could be 1 or more IRCs and/or, 1 or more Green stamps. It depends on where you're sending the card. Two IRC's AND 2 Green stamps is probably the absolute

maximum required. Some countries (The Kingdom of Tonga, for example, despite what it says in the "Callbook") don't honour IRCs. Some countries prohibit the possession of foreign currency.

3. If the DX station uses a U.S. manager or a U.S. address, put one unit of U.S. domestic postage on the return envelope, and forget about IRCs or Greenstamps to cover postage.

4. Finally (and I know I'm going to take some heat for THIS one), insert "something extra"....Yes, my friends, a little "something" to pay for the DX QSL card. A little "something" to buy the DX or the manager a beer....a little extra "Thank You!". Don't whine about it, just *do* it! It can't hurt, it *will* be appreciated, and in my experience, its cheaper in the long run.

"Stuff" the mailing envelope:

1. Insert the return envelope into the "mailing" envelope with the return envelope flap "down"; ie, at the "bottom" of the mailing envelope. (This is to help prevent the flap from being "cut off" when the DX/manager opens the mailing envelope with a knife.)
2. Seal the mailing envelope.
3. Pray that you get a return.
4. Be prepared to wait 3-6 months.

In case of "difficulty":

1. Wait *at least* 3 months.
2. Try to find a better address for the DX/manager.
3. Try "Recorded Delivery for International Mail" (see your local P.O.).
4. Try Registered Mail.
5. Try "Via Buro"
6. Make another contact and start all over.

Good luck!

Ed: Note that the US postage rate is now 60c for letters to Europe (first half ounce)

IOTA CONTEST EXPEDITIONS

These are Islands which are known to be active for the IOTA Contest. (Tks DXNS, G0ORH, LNDX)

IOTA Island	Call	OPs	QSL
EU-006 Aran Is	EJ3HA or special	Westnet DX Group	
EU-008 Mull	GM4QK/P	G4QK.	
EU-008 Gigha	GM5VG/P	Windy Yetts CG.	GM5VG
EU-010 Barra	CANCELLED	East Yorks CG.	
EU-011 Scillys	G0ORH/P	G0ORH, G0OPB, G4TSH.	G0ORH
EU-040 Berlenga	CS2B	GPDx.	
EU-101 Tornskär Island	OH6NVT or OH6AG/P	OH6NVT + ???	
EU-121 Clear Island	EJ5CRC	EI2HY, EI2IB	
EU-123 Isle of Cumbrae	GM3USL/P	Cunningkame & District RC	GM0KVI
EU-124 Anglesey	GW5LP/P	G5LP, G4BWP, & ???.	
EU-127 Helgoland Island	DL8OBC/P	DL8OBC	DL8OBC
AS-004 Cyprus	ZC4DX	G3OZF, G4JVG.	
AS-006 Ma Wan	VR2EZ?	G4DEZ, & VS6s.	
NA-031 Block Island	???	S. Coast Wireless Society	
NA-031 Aquidneck Island	AA1AC/I	AA1AC	
NA-065 Guemes Is	???	AA7RW	
NA-083 Chincoteague Is	N2US/4	N2US/4	
NA-092 Mustang Island	WQ5Y/P	K5LBU, KG5CM, WQ5Y	
NA-100 Antigua	V2/G6QQ	G6QQ	
NA-136 Sheffield	W1OKY	Newington ARL	
NA-137 Cousins Island	???	WW1V, KA1GJ, KB1BEE	
NA-139 Assateague Island	WA3WJD/P	WA3WJD, AA3HA	

HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

This is the first publication of the Honor Roll chaser's table. Rules for entry were given in the May Newsletter. All numbers are for *confirmed* DXCC countries. Positions in the table are based on *current mixed* score (confirmed). The table will be published again in the November Newsletter. The response to this first table is rather disappointing. There must be many other CDXC members who have not yet made Honor Roll, but who qualify for the table, so let's have more entries next time please. Bren, G4DYO will award a certificate to anyone with 270+ current copuntries who demonstrates that they are seriously chasing HR. (Note change from May Newsletter). Non members of CDXC shown in *italics*.

CALL	CW		SSB		MIXED	
	Current	Total	Current	Total	Current	Total
G3NOF			326	362	326	362
G3TXF	321	330	305	322	324	342
G4YRR	208	208	316	321	317	322
G4OBK	293	297	290	294	316	321
G3RZP	114	116	183	186	311???	317???
G/OZ7SM	87	87	307	314	310	317
G3NKC	276				309	
G0LRJ			307	311	307	311
G0KIK			306	310	306	310
G3EZZ	301	314	184	188	301	314
G3SWH	294	298			295	298
G4MVA	284	288			284	288
G3PMR	259	263	209	213	275	279

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

AA6MC*	Dick Dievendorf, San Jose
G0NYL	Betty Jackson, Scunthorpe
G3KAA	Len Cutting, Luton
G3RXP	Dave Mason, Caistor, Lincs
G4TSH	Justin Snow, Twickenham
G4UJS	Bob Harrison, Whixall, Shropshire
WB2YQH	Bob Nadolny, Spring Brook, NY

I hope that all of you enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXXN, Secretary.

**Ed: Dick, as G0MFO, was Secretary of CDXC in 1991/92.*

AN XYL'S VIEW

Trish Cheadle

I have just spent 8 hours in the garden -- and enjoyed every minute of it. NUG cut back the roses and handed me the fork. 'Please dear, just dig that over and fertilise it. I'll check it out and straighten the edges when I've spoken to HIM.' (Again).

It's the first week of a new month. The letters must be answered -- paper work for IOTA, CDXC, RSGB etc., etc., must be done. Another meeting with a mutual Radio Amateur (G3KMA). (He confided in me that he preferred Radio Amateur to Ham) -- perhaps a small lunch (it's all go). No problem, plenty of weeding to do -- then the watering. Oh, I forgot, the neighbours are away, so I look after their garden and their cats. A full day one would think!!

I'm up to my ears in Fish, Blood and Bone and the call of 'Is lunch about due?' hits my

ears. I'm at the other end of the garden. Instead of the call, it would have made a change to be presented with a gin and tonic. Still, he may do that next week -- we are not creatures of habit.

Now, who can tell me what Neville and his little band of amateurs are up to? Something must be going on. In the last 2 weeks out of 7 years, we have been to the cinema twice together. No complaints, even dinner after the show. Is there a convention coming up in Rio or San Tropez? Come on, you can tell me?

It's now 2 weeks on and Neville has taken down one aerial that looked like a box of bamboo and wire. Once more, the table and chairs from the garden have been moved to the tennis court and suddenly out of nowhere all the metal work started arriving.

I want to point out that I had a sign painted for the house 'urgently' six months ago -- and it hasn't been put up. Perhaps he wants it all new for the party! I tell you, if all the jobs are waiting for that day, we'll be working around the clock for a week.. There won't be too much activity on these wave bands unless he gets up during the night!.

Does anyone know much about Internet? Is this why he's being so good. No doubt I'll find out shortly and I'll let you know. If I see a new outfit, and I'm encouraged to buy it -- something's going on.

I seem to have been nagging NUG to take out 5 dead fir trees at the bottom of the garden for several years. They were only seedlings but now they are 30 feet tall with no leaves. Perhaps the constant removal of weeds with SBK has killed them off. Anyway, back to the point. Murmurings of the trees coming down tomorrow made my ears prick up.

'When I swing my new aerial round it's going to get caught up in those dead firs --

they'll have to come down.' Amazing, isn't it. Everything comes to those who wait!!!

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our new baby -- weighing in at 120 lbs. and it didn't hurt a bit. It had no teething problems and all has gone according to plan. All the garden has been done -- gin and tonics have been in abundance and this little XYL has nothing further to complain about.

We are now off on a touring holiday -- without the portable radio and not too many magazines. I wonder what's in store next.....

DXCC UK CHECKING

UK PacketCluster Network

Those attending the RSGB 1995 International HF Convention in September will be able to take advantage of the ARRL's DXCC QSL card checking facility. This is the first time that such arrangements have been available in the UK. If you do not want to trust your precious QSL cards to the mail, this is an ideal opportunity to get them checked. No advanced bookings can be made. Cards can only be checked during the HF Convention on 9/10 September on a first come first serve basis to attendees.

For those intending to bring their cards to the Convention some essential information:-

- Applications must be accompanied by a completed DXCC application form. These forms are available from Marcia Brimson at RSGB HQ on receipt of an SAE.
- A maximum of 110 cards can be checked for each individual. This could be either a new DXCC application or the addition of 110 new countries.
- Cards should be grouped by band and mode to speed up the

checking process. Cards need not be in alphabetical order. Cards for the 160m band can not be checked.

- Each application must be accompanied by the normal fee, which is stated on the application form. There is a discount for ARRL members. Note that ARRL membership will be available on the RSGB stand and that payments for DXCC claims can be made in Sterling at the Convention.

RSGB International HF Convention - 9 & 10 September 1995 Beaumont Conference Centre - Windsor - Berkshire. Full details from Marcia Brimson at RSGB HQ.

SEANET 1995 CONVENTION

Tony Waltham, HS0/G4UAV

The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST), now under Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King, HS1A, is hosting the 23rd annual SEANET Convention on Koh Samui (Samui Island) from November 17-19, 1995, in the Gulf of Thailand.

A special convention station with the callsign HS8SEA will be activated during that period from IOTA As-101 (Samui) and all DXpeditioners or hams who want to combine a tropical holiday with some DXing and mingling with other hams are welcome.

SEANET is a daily net on 14.320 that meets at 12.00z. It is not a DX net, although DX check-ins are welcome. Rather, it is a meeting place for stations around the Southeast Asia region that goes back some 25 years, as does the convention (well almost, a couple of years were skipped in the mid-1980s). The net control rotates on a daily basis between stations in Southeast Asia, from HS, V85, 9V to VK6 and VK8, to give a few examples. Countries are called

in a sequence (that varies slightly from one net control station to another, depending on beam headings), that always begins with Thailand. Any station wishing to make contact with a check-in merely calls "contact" and the net control station assigns a clear frequency. Stations outside the Asia region are called towards the end of the net, and given the low solar flux, Europe should have a chance of propagation on some days.

The convention is essentially a fun, or entertainment event, with a symposium session on the Sunday morning. The organisers have arranged a package deal with accommodation, etc. If any members are interested, or would like to participate, they can either request the form from myself or send email with any enquiries to my address here (tonywn@nwg.nectec.or.th).

I will be sending a brochure to CDXC by Post, now that these have been printed. (*Ed: I have this, as well as registration forms. Anyone who would like a photocopy should send me a SASE*)

I would appreciate any assistance that CDXC can lend in getting word out to the IOTA community and to the UK amateurs who might wish to take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy Thai hospitality, meet many other hams in Southeast Asia and do some operating (just bring a copy of your home licence for this event).

My best regards to the CDXC Committee and all members. Vy 73s from Bangkok de Tony, HS0/G4UAV

CE0Z ON 80M/160M

UK PacketCluster Network

I have some GOOD news for topband enthusiasts...in addition to XR0Y, I and Randy, K0EU will be QRV from CE0Z (that is our call) from Sept. 13 thru Sept. 21. We will be running 1 kW and full-size loops on 160 and 80m, 2el Yagi on 40 m etc. We

should be *loud*.

We are looking for a European operator to join us - they must be experienced and equally proficient at CW and SSB. Please submit any names direct to me at this e-mail address and also help us get the word out to the DX world about this Juan Fernandez DXpedition. It has been in the USA DX bulletins once, but few EU ops know about it. Vy 73 and gd DX.. de Bob, K4UEE
MAllphin@aol.com

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION

1995

(From ON6TT)

Extract from a letter to G3PMR

Hi Alan

Attached you can find the first press release announcing our next DXpedition, **Heard Island 1995**. We knew that at least one other team had announced the trip for the Antarctic season 1996-97, but we succeeded in getting all the critical elements of the puzzle together before the others, so we decided to go for it *this year!*

And...we can make it happen. The organising team of the 1995 Heard expedition has the needed experience, and an impressive record of successful expeditions and contests, both as team members as well as organisers. We have the right background to bring this expedition to a good end. Only think about the fact that our core team has two of the three 3Y0PI operators.

K0IR - Ralph, 3Y0PI DXpedition leader, VP8SSI team member, successful tester.

KK6EK - Bob, 3Y0PI scientific coordinator, Salas y Gómez - Easter Island expedition leader, has organised numerous scientific expeditions to the Pacific, writer of the 3Y0PI book.

ON6TT, Peter, 3Y0PI organiser, team member of FO0CI and AH1A. Operated from numerous spots in the Pacific and Africa. Well known tester. Producer of AH1A and 3Y0PI videos.

Other team members are being selected to balance CW/SSB and represent RTTY and satellite, high band and low band specialists and to break even on EU, US and JA operators. Also there are a lot of people working behind the scenes. People such as Mr. Lowband, ON4UN, John, who is designing totally new low band antennas for us.

Major manufacturer's have promised their full support: Cushcraft provides all Yagis; Yaesu provides all HF rigs (3 x FT1000, 3 x FT900) and ETO promised the needed amplifiers.

We aim not only at *a lot of QSOs*, but also evenly spread over all continents, *all bands* (10-160m + satellite) and *all modes* (CW, RTTY, SSB). That is traditional, with Peter 1st (62,000 QSOs) we proved we could achieve this. With three weeks on Heard, at least four full time two kilowatt stations with excellent antennas, rigs and operators, we are shooting to do even better than on Peter 1st. But, *we want to do more on this DXpedition* - we want it to be a DXpedition in the real sense of radio amateurism: experiment with new techniques, new antennas, new technical set-ups, and more. To test these things out before leaving for Heard, Bob, KK6EK, will try out a lot of these in his Salas y Gómez/Easter Island DXpedition.

Ed: Peter goes on to request financial support from CDXC. The Committee will be considering this request at its meeting prior to the ARM on July 8th. Below is the press release:

For several months a group from the 3Y0PI team has worked discretely on a new

DXpedition. All key elements of the project are now in place.

K0IR, the organiser and leader of the 1994 3Y0PI Peter I Island DXpedition, will lead a team to Heard Island in November, 1995. Sir Edmund Hillary will be the Honorary Expedition Leader.

The Australian Antarctic Division has issued permit number 95/1 allowing a full-scale amateur radio operation. All environmental assessments and letters of indemnification have been filed and approved. A separate proposal for scientific work during the stay is expected to be approved.

A 140-ft. vessel has been chartered for the trip. The team will sail from Fremantle, Western Australia, on Nov. 1, 1995, and expects to land on Heard Island Nov. 12. They will remain until Dec. 1, returning to Fremantle around Dec. 12.

The team will be active on all bands and modes, including digital and satellite. The team will elaborate on the strong points of the 3Y0PI expedition, and hopes to take advantage of technical innovations resulting from the 1995 Easter Island/Salas y Gómez expedition in September. Radio equipment is being provided by Yaesu, ETO, and Cushcraft.

The DXpedition was organised by 3Y0PI veterans K0IR (Expedition Leader), KK6EK (Scientific Co-ordinator) and ON6TT (European Co-ordinator). The team also currently includes another 3Y0PI team member HB9AHL, plus N6EK, PA3DUU, K5VT, DJ9ZB, and JH4RHF. Additional support will come from JH1AJT (Japanese Co-ordinator) and VK2BEX (Australian Co-ordinator). Contributions to help defray the high cost of transportation are needed. Please forward these to:

USA: K0IR Heard Island DXpedition, P. O. Box 563, Waite Park, MN 56387-0563.

EUROPE: ON6TT - Peter Casier PO Box 1, Melle (Belgium) (when sending cheques to Peter, pse use Eurocheques only, drawn in *your* currency and with the Eurochequecard number written on the back. The bank charges too much if the cheque is made in any other way).

Additional details about the project will follow.

(Signed)

Ralph Fedor, K0IR
Peter Casier, ON6TT
Bob Schmieder, KK6EK

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

From G4PFF

Don't forget *subscriptions are now due*.

Please do not leave your renewal until the H.F.Convention. in September. We now have over 200 members so the cost of sending out reminders plus the work involved is getting excessive.

Those who have paid previously by Standing Order please check your Bank Account statements as I have already had some payments at the old rate. This gives more work and expense to sort out.

If you have paid at the old rate then a cheque for the balance would be appreciated.

For full details and subscription levels for this year see the front of the Newsletter.

Please make cheques payable to CDXC and send as soon as possible to:-

Mike Potter G4PFF
38 West St
Gt Gransden
Sandy
Beds
SG19 3AU
U.K.

There will be one final reminder in the next Newsletter and for non payers that will be the last Newsletter they will receive.

If for any reason you have decided not to renew your membership then please let us know as CDXC is not a commercial publishing business. You wouldn't get any period to pay with them!

Best 73 Mike G4PFF

BY/DU FEUD OVER SPRATLYS *UK PacketCluster Network*

From Washington Post, 17 May 1995.

Manila, Philippines (Reuters) - Tension between China and the Philippines rose after a dispute over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. China, Asia's strongest military power, accused the Philippines, one of the region's weakest, of violating Beijing's sovereignty after Manila sent a group of journalists on a tour of some of the disputed islands.

Two Chinese vessels confronted the Philippine naval ships carrying journalists of nine nations on the visit, which had gone ahead despite repeated Chinese protests on the personal instructions of Philippine President Fidel Ramos.

China warned the Philippines that any similar action could result in "serious consequences." Philippine officers defended the media trip, saying it was a civilian activity.

The Spratlys are a group of islets and reefs over which Manila claims sovereignty and calls the Kalayaan Islands. Other nations claiming the islands wholly or in part are Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei

LIBYA - 5A3UY

K2ENT reports that UT3UY and 3 others are going to Libya on July 3rd and will operate 15 days SSB & CW, as 5A3UY. Supposedly all documents are already OK. QSL manager is W4FRU - to be confirmed.

HK3JJH/8

UK PacketCluster Network

The following information is provided for those who are wondering why an IOTA number has not yet been given for this operation:

a. This proposed operation from the unnumbered Narino Division group came to our notice only a few days ago as a result of a telephone call from Stateside.

b. The island mentioned was Tumaco or possibly Gallo, not Morro Island from where the operation is now supposed to be taking place.

c. The normal procedure for getting confirmation that an island qualifies for IOTA (see Directory) was unfortunately not followed.

d. The Committee is faced with the situation that no maps are available to it showing this island in adequate detail. Without such maps it cannot satisfy itself that the island counts.

Pedro has confirmed to me in a QSO today that a letter was sent a few days ago. If it arrives in the next few days and provides the information required (or someone else is able to provide it in the meantime), we may be able to issue a number while Pedro is still on the island, otherwise not. Pedro has been told the position both by me and, to my knowledge, four other people but continues to insist that he does not understand why a number cannot be issued!

The Directory is now available in Spanish, Portuguese and German (which he also speaks), so there can be no good reason for his misunderstanding the situation.

Roger Balister, RSGB IOTA Director, 17 May 1995

My earlier message of 17 May explained the problems we were having in meeting HK3JJH's request for the issue of a new IOTA reference number for his current operation from Morro Island in Narino Division, Colombia. Basically, it came down to the fact that the normal procedure for getting confirmation that an island qualifies for IOTA was not followed by Pedro in this case. The Committee was being urged to take a decision at a few hours notice and without the benefit of careful research of adequate maps. Naturally it was not prepared to do this.

The problem was resolved at 1230z on Thursday, 19 May when the promised letter arrived from Pedro. This was dated 13 May and had arrived from Bogota in (only) six days, and all of three days after Pedro's operation started. The map provided enabled us to prioritise this matter and issue the new number SA-081 for Narino Division. Pedro was fortunate to be informed while still on the island.

This is the latest in a series of incidents which suggest that the practice of issuing reference numbers over the air at the time of an operation might have to be reviewed. It is not reasonable to expect the IOTA Committee to interrupt its normal on-going work to deal with sudden, unannounced operations where there has been no previous contact with the Committee about the chosen island's validity for IOTA. In cases like this in the future we may increasingly have to ask the operator and the IOTA Community to wait until a decision has been reached based on the submission of a properly documented application after the event. This will be disappointing for those impatient to have the number immediately but it looks increasingly inevitable. IOTA watchers know that a decision one way or the other is usually announced within a few weeks of the end of an operation.

Roger Balister, G3KMA
RSGB IOTA Director, 20 May 1995

1995 RSGB INTERNATIONAL HF CONVENTION

Something for everyone is the theme of this year's International HF Convention. Just take a look at some of the talks already scheduled and we think you will agree.

- The DXCC programme by Chuck Hutchinson, W8CH
- Amateur Radio on Internet by Mike Richards, G4WNC
- Top Band antennas for mere mortals by Neil Smith, G4DBN
- Cluster Forum by John Clayton, G4PDQ
- Islands On The Air - the fastest growing DX award programme by Roger Balister, G3KMA
- Sunspots and propagation by Martin Atherton, G3ZAY
- Bhutan - 40 years of amateur radio, by Jim Smith, VK9NS
- The Camel Trophy by Richard Diamond, G4CVI
- HF Contesting by Chris Burbanks, G3SJJ
- Computers in the shack by Don Field, G3XTT
- Activating Islands; the Do's and Dont's by a number of Island activators
- HF Data Modes by Mike Kerry, G4BMK
- The Conway Reef DXpedition by Mats Persson, SM7PKK
- Low Band Antennas - my way by Ron Stone, GW3YDX
- The Islands On The Air awards programme report by Roger Balister, G3KMA
- Equipment reviews by Chris Lorek, G4HCL
- Contesting in the Caribbean by Bill Hudzik, WA2UDT

Plus talks on Tower Safety, Operating techniques and the DXCC QSL card checking facility - a first in the UK.

CONVINCED ? This is your invitation to attend the Convention and join in the fun.

RSGB International HF Convention - 9 & 10 September 1995, Beaumont Conference Centre - Windsor - Berkshire.

Full details from Marcia Brimson at RSGB HQ, Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 3JE, UK

Organising Committee - G3OUF & G0TWW (Joint Chair), G3ZAY, G3KMA, G4XRV, G3NUG, G4BWP, G4IQM, G3RTU, G3PSM & G4PFF.

PHILIPPINES CLAIM SCARBOROUGH REEF *Internet - Tnx G0CGL*

Today's DX Reflector (*Ed: May 3rd*) on Internet has a very interesting posting from the Philippine Embassy in Washington. The Manila government has learnt of the recent amateur radio operations and was apparently incensed by the fact that licences were issued by China. It seems that they claim that the reef is in Philippine waters and that they have sole authority there. There is supposedly a lighthouse in the reef maintained them as well. They note that Philippine nationals have been allowed to fish in the waters surrounding the reef for decades without dispute.

SCARBOROUGH & THE PHILIPPINES *Brendan McCartney, G4DYO*

I have in my possession the original petition for DXCC status for Scarborough Reef submitted by DK9KX in December, 1993. One of the attachments is a copy of a letter from the Embassy of the Philippines, in Bonn Germany. The text reads: "According to the Philippine National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, the Scarborough Reef or Huangyan Dao does not fall within the territorial sovereignty of the Philippines. It is 10 miles off the line drawn under the Treaty of Paris; however, the area is within the 200-mile Philippine economic zone." Verrrrrry interesting, eh? 73 de Bren

VISIT TO UK BY RUSSIAN AMATEURS

Dick King, G3PFS/CT3EU

Perhaps some of the readers of this note will have worked RZ9MYL which is the club station of the Teacher Training University of Omsk in Siberia. The station is organised and overlooked by Yuri UA9MAR, a Vice Professor who teaches computer studies - the suffix standing for Many Young Ladies!

Some 70-80 YLs operate on a daily basis from 0700-1500z. On working 10 different YLs a certificate and group picture can be obtained via DK5JA Tony by sending him a log extract and 10 IRCs. The girls who are learning mainly English and German which they practice via the radio also like to correspond to help with their studies. After concluding their courses they will go on to become teachers and interpreters.

Yuri UA9MAR, his XYL Valentina UA9MIL, and niece Lada, who is one of the students, will be flying to Heathrow around July 25 - the exact date is not yet confirmed - for 2 weeks. I have volunteered to organise the trip for them. Already 3 amateurs, myself included, have promised to help with accommodation and hospitality. I will show them Norwich, the Broads and North Norfolk. Tom G4FEU from Lancashire and Reg G0DCF from Sheffield have kindly offered to show them around their areas.

I am looking for someone to meet the party at Heathrow and show them something of London for say 2-3 days and then possibly meet me somewhere between London and Norwich. Also perhaps someone in the Midlands area could perhaps volunteer to help break the journey between myself at Norwich and Tom in Lancashire.

The party would be interested in meeting other amateurs and also would be prepared to speak at Radio Clubs, having video footage of their country with them.

Anyone interested in helping in any way with this trip please contact me on 01603-784032. Dick King G3PFS/CT3EU QTHR Best 73.

MORSE CODE & AMATEUR RADIO

UK PacketCluster Network

The following item was reported from the IARU Region 3 Conference held in Singapore September 1994. (Just got round to reading the report!)

".... that this Conference confirm support for the continuation of the requirement contained in the ITU Radio Regulations for competency in Morse Code to be first demonstrated before an operator in the Amateur Service is licensed to use the allocated HF bands."

Also from the seminar on Amateur Radio Communications held in Tokyo, June 1994. Organised by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and hosted by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Japan.

" Although technological advances like satellites and computers are greatly influencing the amateur radio service, the Morse code continues to maintain its special place. Competency in Morse code is an essential requirement for operating on the world-wide HF amateur radio bands. The IARU Members want to retain the present text and the mandatory Morse text requirements mentioned in RR 2735. It was noted that, for decades, knowledge of the Morse code has proved to be of positive value to amateur service world-wide and has fostered communication between people of different languages. It was, therefore, felt that the International Morse code should remain a basic requirement for Amateur Radio below 30MHz."

LONG LIVE CW!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Chris G3SJJ

Well, that's it for this time. Thanks again to all contributors. Please keep those articles coming! The next Newsletter will be produced in time for the Convention, and will be available initially from the CDXC Room. 73 Alan, G3PMR

More news from Vine

Are you ready - for the low bands season coming up ?

Available in July - Phased vertical hybrids. For 2 or 4 verticals. 160 / 80 / 40m versions. 1.5 KW rating Weatherproof outside unit with high quality Type N connectors. Attractive shack control box. All this for just £199.95.

Plus - Versatility from our remote antenna switch boxes. One cable in, three antennas out. 1.8 - 54 Mhz. 1.5 KW rating. Switched over the feeder line (no separate control line needed) Outside + shack unit for just £ 109.95.

What about this one ? - Antenna phasing box. Phases up to three 50 Ω antennas, on any given band. Can be tribanders, verticals, loops etc, etc.... Select - Both, upper, lower - three antennas at once if you have them. Works on all bands 80-10m. 1.5 KW rating. £ 165.95.

Our BIG choice of beams

Force 12 - for lightweight high performance. In the last magazine you saw what the Conway Reef crew said about Force 12 ("Amazing"). QST has reviewed the C-3 tribander. Their conclusion "Force 12's C-3 uses several interesting electrical and mechanical design techniques to create a small lightweight triband beam with good performance"

Gem Quad - Lightweight, strong, with the 17 and 12 metre bands easily added. Ideal spacing maintained on all bands.

KLM - High power triband and monoband yagis. As used by G3SXW, G4LJF and others who demand reliability and performance.

Plus Cushcraft, HyGain, HF/VHF and the excellent range of DJ9BV optimised VHF/UHF yagis from Eagle Antenna, rotators, cables, etc..

**Ring / Fax us for more information ! Remember -
WE LOVE TO TALK ANTENNAS**

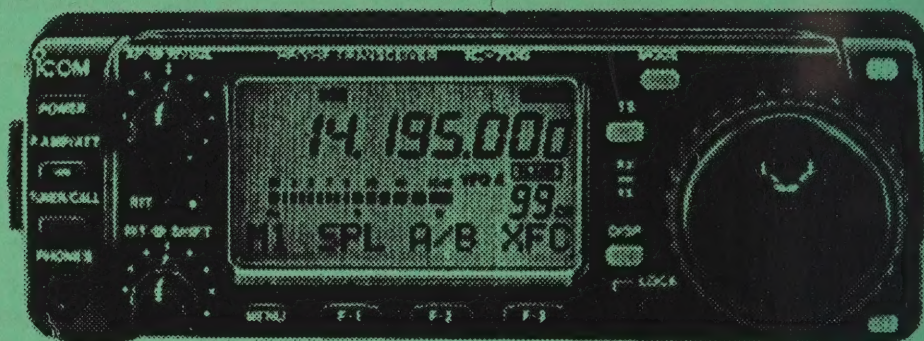
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G4HKS
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Introduces

Icom's New Baby

What are you looking at defies belief.



This is not a 25W, 2m, FM rig, although no larger than one. The new IC-706 is a 100 Watt, HF, all-mode transceiver, a 100W six metre transceiver, a ten watt two metre transceiver, (all-mode of course), and a general coverage receiver, (including wide band FM), up to 200MHZ.

All in one little box measuring 167W x 58H x 200D mm.

Lacking in features? No.

Overpriced? Definitely not.

£1195.00 including VAT

**Deposit £196, twelve payments of £83.25, or eighteen payments of £55.50.
No interest.**

Call sales information on

0181 - 566 1120